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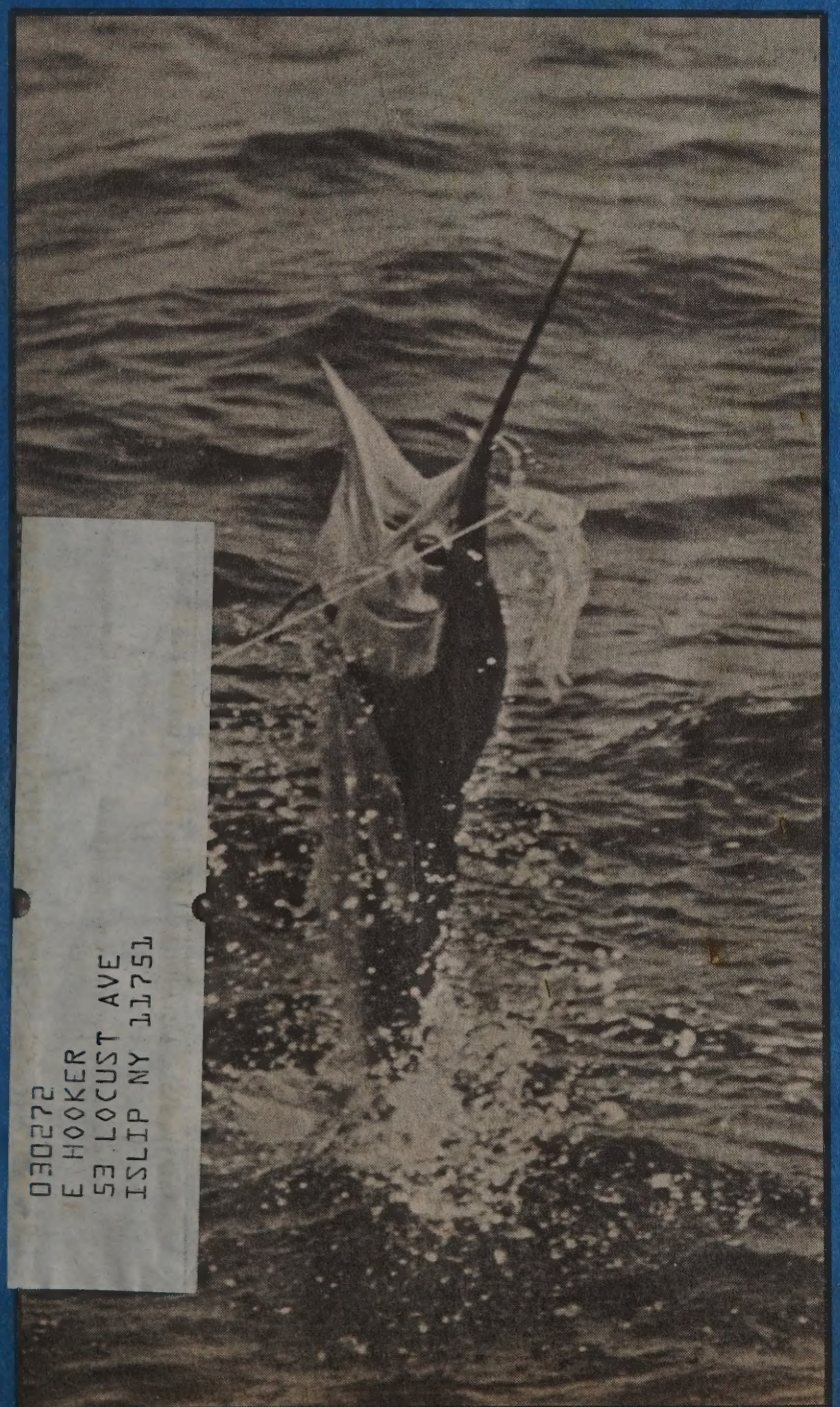
September 23rd, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 38 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



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DARTER COUNTRY
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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

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About the Cover—

Recent efforts to protect billfish and sharks from the foreign longline fishery should help ensure that sights such as that found on this week's cover remain a part of the L.I. offshore scene. See story on page 6.

COMING NEXT WEEK **NANTUCKET WRECK TRIPS**

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Pete Barrett, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
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Pass It On...

SAFE BOATING COURSE IN SMITHTOWN

Classes in boating will be offered again this winter, at the Nessaquake Jr. H igh School, Edgewood Ave., Smithtown. The course is designed to teach the boating public some of the basic knowledge necessary for the safe handling of their boats.

Classes will be held each Tuesday evening from 8PM to 10PM for 10 weeks. The first class session begins September 28th at 8PM. The Smithtown Bay Power Squadron sponsors these classes.

For those who desire more advanced knowledge, there are additional courses after completion of the basic course. Included in the first basic 10-week course are such subjects as Safety Afloat, Seamanship, Small Boat Handling, Government Regulations, Rules of the Road, the Mariners Compass, Charts and Piloting.

The Smithtown Bay Power Squadron is a unit of the U.S. Power Squadron, a nationwide education association of boatmen, established in 1914, dedicated to the promotion of safety afloat.

For additional information, please contact Public Relations Officer George Holst at 265-1109 during the day or in the evening at 724-0433.

YALE PROFESSOR TO DELIVER LECTURE ON EFFECTS OF DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL ON MARINE ECOSYSTEM

The problems and possible benefits of dumping dredged materials on communities of bottom-dwelling sea creatures will be the subject of a lecture by Professor Donald Rhoads of Yale University, on October 6, 1982, at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Dr. Rhoads has done much of the significant research to date on the recolonization of existing species, and the influx of new species, into areas where the existing sea floor has been covered by dredged materials.

The lecture, entitled "Dredge Spoiling and the Compromise Ecosystem. What is the Compromise?", is sponsored by the Marine Sciences Research Center (MSRC), and is the second annual Sidney Gelber Lecture in Marine Sciences. The special lecture series was established to honor Dr. Sidney Gelber, who retired last year as Stony Brook's Provost. Dr. Gelber was instrumental in the development of the MSRC into an international center of excellence in coastal oceanography.

The dumping of dredged materials, a common activity in Long Island's coastal waters, often temporarily destroys communities of slow-growing, long-lived species. This disrupts the balanced ecosystem these species have achieved. While the original species usually recolonize the area after time, fast-growing pioneer organisms which are more opportunistic may move into the area first, creating a growth boom. The effect of the new community structure on the ecosystem is the "compromise" Dr. Rhoads deals with in his lecture.

Dr. Rhoads feels his research and subsequent lecture in this area deal with, "a major problem in marine biology that no one has addressed, or apparently will address." He is hopeful that the lecture will spur additional research, which has great potential value in the management of dredged materials disposal.

The lecture is free and open to the public. It will be held on Level 2 of the Health Sciences Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. It will begin at 7:30 PM in Lecture Hall #1. Parking will be in the Health Sciences parking garage, for which there is a charge.

MONTAUK'S FALL FESTIVAL ROLE TO BE NAUTICAL IN NATURE

Montauk, steeped in history and tradition of the sea, will feature nautical activities such as the popular Full Moon Striped Bass Tournament in its role as an official host community for the "I Love New York" Fall Festival on Long Island this year.

Located at the tip of the Island's south fork, extending some 120 miles into the Atlantic Ocean from Manhattan, the picturesque hamlet has adopted "Where Long Island Begins" as the theme for its schedule of celebrations to be held from Friday, O Oct. 1, through Sunday, Oct. 3.

Other marine and marine-related events will include surfcasting safety lectures and demonstrations by the Montauk Surfcasting Association, and tours of the nation's first lighthouse on Montauk Point. Also, there will be whale watch and fall migration bird watch cruises out of Lake Montauk Harbor to ocean waters south of Block Island. A "Nautical Rummage Sale" will be held on the Village Green.

A major summer resort and sport fishing center on the Eastern Seaboard, Montauk ironically enjoys its finest weather conditions of the year during the fall season from Labor Day through to December.

It is in October that the gradually cooling ocean waters trigger the canny striped bass to start moving back south for their spawning rituals in the brackish headwaters of Chesapeake Bay. Boat anglers and surfcasters in the Montauk Marine Basin's Full Moon Bass Tournament will meet the tackle busters head-on from Plum Gut to Block Island starting at noon on Friday, Oct. 1. The 50-hour fishing session will be divided into four fishing periods of varying

lengths, with money prizes and trophies for each period, and overall winners.

Last year's participants, surfcasters and anglers in more than 60 boats, brought more than 500 bass to the weighing station at the Marine Basin, which is sponsor of the annual contest.

First and foremost in Montauk's tradition and identity is the seafarers' landmark represented by the historic Montauk Point Lighthouse—the oldest federally operated lighthouse in the United States. Its construction was authorized in 1795 by the then president, George Washington. The 80-foot sandstone tower was built at a cost of $22,300, the lowest of four bids submitted for the massive—but graceful—structure. Its first light beam, fueled by sperm whale oil, was touched off in 1797.

The lighthouse beacon, electrified in the 1940s after an interim period of kerosene burning, has served as a landfall guide to ships bearing commerce and immigrants from Europe, to whaling vessels returning from long hunting trips to distant oceans; its 300,000 candle power light now serves fleets of commercial fishing trawlers and the sleek deep sea sports fishing boats.

The lighthouse's officer-in-charge, Boatswain's Mate Paul K. Driscoll, says that even today's freighters and ocean liners, equipped with the most sophisticated electronic navigational instrumentation, take fixes on the light as they approach or leave the mainland—"There's nothing more reassuring than confirmation of position by a solid landmark," he explains.

Mr. Driscoll conducted research and collected artifacts to establish a museum of the installation's history two years ago. Although tours of the museum are available to groups by appointment on weekdays, he and volunteers from his crew will conduct tours on Saturday, Oct. 2, and Sunday, Oct. 3, from Noon to 4PM for Festival visitors.

In addition to surfcasting safety lectures and demonstrations, the Montauk Surfcasters' Association will sponsor charity raffles of surfcasting equipment at Lions Field on Friday from 9AM to 5PM. On Saturday, the group will conduct its day-long program at the Montauk Point Lighthouse parking field, and then move the operation back to Lions Field on Sunday.

The Nautical Rummage Sale will be conducted on the Village Green by the Montauk Captains Association on Saturday from 9AM to 1PM. On another section of the Village Green, the local unit of the AARP will be holding a Flea Market operation from 9AM to 3PM.

A special marine-related activity, star gazing, will be sponsored by the Friends of the Library at 7:30 PM at Kirk Park Beach. A lecture on celestial phenomena and firsthand instruction in star gazing will be given by George Lamagga, director of the Astronomy Group of the Custer Institute at Southold.

DAIWA MAKES GRAPHITE RODS AFFORDABLE

Daiwa gladdened the hearts of anglers everywhere recently by announcing a new graphite-composite fishing rod that will sell for the same as a popular-priced tubular fiberglass rod.

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Factory tests of the Regal Strike rods indicate they are mighty tough and durable. But "tough" isn't everything when it comes to developing a good fishing rod. It should also cast well, feel good in the hand, have the sensitivity to detect fish that bite lightly, and have the backbone to move a hooked fish toward the net.

The new Regal Strike Series rods will ultimately retail at about half the price of custom-grade graphite rods. That's about the same price as a good quality tubular fiberglass rod.

It's our feeling that there will be a lot of anglers who will have a hard time telling the difference between the smart-looking Regal Strike rods and higher-priced graphites.

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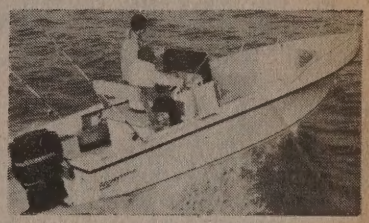

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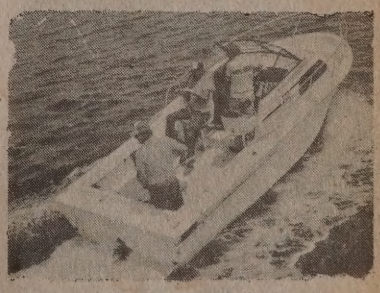

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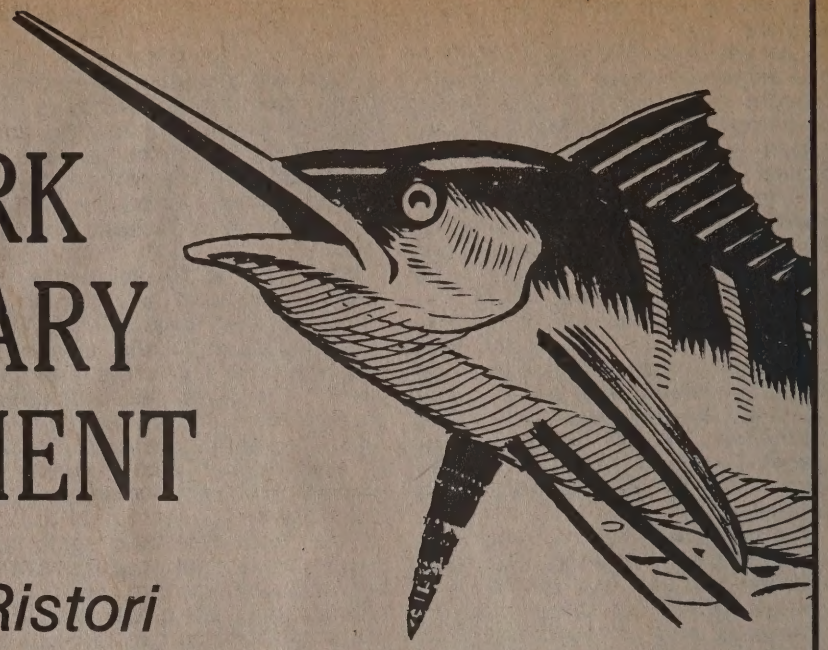

During August, a series of hearings was held from the Gulf of Mexico to Rhode Island on the Preliminary Fishing Management Plan for Atlantic Billfishes and Sharks. This latest PMP, presented by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) contains several innovative provisions designed to reduce the mortality of billfishes on foreign longlines and to eliminate area and gear conflicts with American recreational and commercial fishermen.

The hearings were generally well attended, with an unexpected turnout of over 100 at the Riverhead meeting being particularly impressive. That's a sharp contrast to the half-dozen or so that showed up a few years ago at Montauk when the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council held a hearing relative to the proposed fishery management plan for billfishes. A big increase in recreational canyon fishing and domestic swordfish longlining since then has resulted in a much higher degree of interest. The only disappointing meeting was the one in Wakefield, Rhode Island, where there were no public attendees. However, about 50 people turned out at Long Branch, New Jersey; around 50 at Ocean City, Maryland; and about 20 at Norfolk, Virginia.

Inevitably, the question arises as to why we must go through this process, rather than just kicking the Japanese longliners out. That situation has been addressed in my columns many times, and I trust that most readers now realize that it is a political problem. Tunas were excluded from the 200 mile limit in order to protect the overseas interests of the California tuna industry. Though that industry has fallen onto hard times, they still have more money and political muscle than East Coast fishermen seem to be able to develop. The net result is that the many attempts to add tunas to the 200 mile limit law invariably get stalled. Even an attempt to add only the Atlantic bluefin tuna failed to slip by the West Coast purse seines.

Since there is little hope of changing the law in the short term, the best bet for minimizing the destruction of billfishes and sharks is through the PMP. While the foreign longline effort for tunas cannot be restricted except by voluntary agreement (and the Japanese have agreed to reduce their bluefin tuna fishery by 92 percent this year), the incidental catch of other species is within our jurisdiction. The original PMP attempted to get at this problem by requiring the release of all species other than tunas caught on the longlines. At the time that plan was being formulated, as a Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council representative, I insisted that language be added that would require release in the water by cutting the leader. I'm sure that if it weren't for that provision there would be almost 100 percent mortality of non-tuna species.

Unfortunately, the mortality rates are high, even when legitimate attempts are made to release the fish unharmed. All evidence indicates that billfish caught on rod and reel have a high survival rate when released. However, those hooked on longlines are unable to continue swimming and may be restrained for many hours before being cut loose. Based on 1979-80 U.S. observer data, the average longline induced mortality was 72 percent for swordfish and 61 percent for other billfishes. Shark mortality is quite low (seven to 13 percent), but the death rate for such incidental catches as dolphinfish, king mackerel, oilfish, and wahoo runs from 60-69 percent. A few sea turtles and marine mammals are also caught, with mortality rates running from zero to 50 percent.

It should be understood that since the PMP came into effect, there has been no incentive for the Japanese to catch these non-tuna species. Their objective always has been tunas, and now that they can't even retain the other species there's no percentage involved in hooking them at all. However, the lack of penalties for even accidently killing billfishes may serve as an incentive to continue fishing areas where the non-target species are mixed in with the desired tunas.

The revised PMP takes into account the fact that the "mortality rate translates into reduced success rates in the swordfish fishery than would occur in the absence of a foreign longline fishery for tunas in the FCZ." Furthermore, "the value of the U.S. fishermen's right to have a preferential opportunity to harvest fish in the FCZ is diminished by the foreign incidental catch of fully used species."

In addition to the resource problem, there's also one of gear and area conflict. As noted in the PMP, "the foreign longline fishery prevents U.S. fishermen from using prime fishing grounds and damages or destroys lobster trap gear deployed by U.S. fishermen off the Atlantic coast and longline gear used by the U.S. commercial swordfish and tilefish fisheries off the Atlantic coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. Conflicts between U.S. recreational fishermen and foreign longline fishermen have occurred off the Atlantic coast and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Does foreign longlining affect recreational fisheries? Anglers in the Gulf of Mexico have long contended that this is the case. They claimed that billfishing would fall off drastically after Japanese longliners had been working an area, and studies seem to indicate that they were correct in their assessment. Catch rates for billfish have increased

dramatically in the Gulf since 1978, when the Japanese voluntarily ceased fishing for yellowfin tuna there during the summer. The white marlin catch per unit effort (CPUE) increased 77 percent and the blue marlin CPUE was up by 33 percent!

The objectives of the revised PMP are as follows: (1) increase the local availability of billfishes to U.S. fishermen; (2) reduce gear and space conflicts between foreign and U.S. fishermen; (3) conserve the billfish and shark resources throughout their range through international cooperative management; and (4) provide a reasonable opportunity for foreign nations to fish for tunas in the FCZ under international agreements intended to conserve and manage Atlantic tunas.

In order to accomplish these objectives, NMFS proposes five measures as follows: (1) reports of catch and effort by location; (2) area and season closures in the Atlantic FCZ; (3) compensatory payments to the nation for billfishes caught incidentally in the foreign tuna longline fishery; (4) restrictions on the size of hooks used for shark fishing; (5) a quota for sharks.

These measures apply only to foreign fishermen because a PMP cannot contain management measures applicable to domestic fishermen. Any domestic restrictions will have to wait for a fishery management plan prepared by the councils.

The first measure has been in effect since 1978, but should be more effective now that we have 100 percent observer coverage on the longliners. For instance, in 1980 the number of swordfish killed by the Japanese longliners was reported by the Japanese as 4,911, but the estimate from partial coverage of the fleet by U.S. observers was 7,449!

Area and season closures had long been regarded as virtually illegal by many NMFS officials, but that attitude has changed. The revised PMP closes much of the Gulf of Mexico to the incidental catch of billfish, and permits no foreign longlining after April in order to avoid conflicts with the recreational fleet. The Dry Tortugas area is also closed in the winter to avoid conflicts with domestic swordfish longliners. The swordfishermen are also protected by similar closures from June to September off the southeast coast, and from June to November along our portion of the coast. Naturally, the latter closure should also prove beneficial to all of our canyon fisheries.

The compensatory payment system for billfish killed is the most unique and far-reaching step in the new PMP. Though the foreign longliners have no incentive to catch these species at present, their only loss is a hook and bait, so they aren't likely to move or change techniques simply to avoid hooking billfish. The compensatory system will change all that by charging $500 per billfish—except swordfish, which will cost only $272. It's ironic that the commercially-important swordfish should be cheaper to kill than the almost worthless marlins and sailfish. However, the latter species are priced out at their value to the sportfishery, and even the $500 figure may be low on that basis. On the other hand, the swordfish figure is computed strictly on a commercial basis. The average longline swordfish caught is figured at 120 pounds whole, with an average 1981 price of $2.27 per pound. Perhaps the National Marine Fisheries Service should have figured in an additional sportfishing value for swordfish and raised the fee considerably.

The hook limitation for sharks requires that foreign vessels in a directed fishery for sharks use such large hooks that smaller species aren't likely to be caught on them. This is intended to prevent the Cubans from harvesting groupers in any possible directed shark fishery in the Gulf. The small 1,150 metric ton quota for sharks remains, but there are no takers at present. In 1980 the Faroe Islands attempted to catch porbeagle sharks on Georges Banks, but these fish were so depleted by a pre-200 mile limit Norwegian longline fishery that the effort was a failure.

Generally speaking, the comments at the hearings were supportive of this latest effort by NMFS to preserve our billfish and shark resources. The only real dispute is over the low value attached to swordfish. That will change yearly, depending on the average market price, but it is unrealistically low because the recreational value isn't included. It would make sense to increase the swordfish compensation to at least the $500 level of the other billfish, if not even higher to reflect both the recreational and commercial importance of the species. Certainly, the constantly diminishing catch rates recorded by recreational fishermen in the canyons would seem to indicate that the swordfish needs all the protection it can get!

It was expected that the area and season provisions of the PMP would be implemented by around Sept. 20. However, the comment period on the rest of the PMP remains open until Oct. 4, 1982. If you'd like to comment on the compensation rates or other provisions of the PMP, write to Donald J. Leedy, F/CM6, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3300 Whitehaven St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20235.

It may not be perfect, but the new PMP is a significant step forward in accomplishing in a round-about way what we can't seem to handle by a change in the law. Between this and the voluntary (under ICCAT pressure) agreements by the Japanese longline fleet, the pressure on our oceanic resources will be diminished—and the era of foreign longlining gradually brought to an end.

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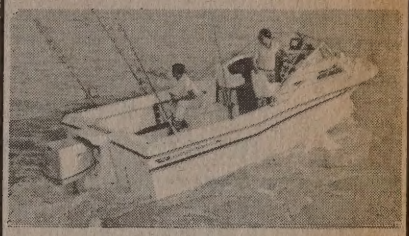

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Fire Island Inlet: FALL MENU

by Fred Golofaro

The fall months provide some of the best inshore fishing of the year for boatmen who hail from Great South Bay ports.

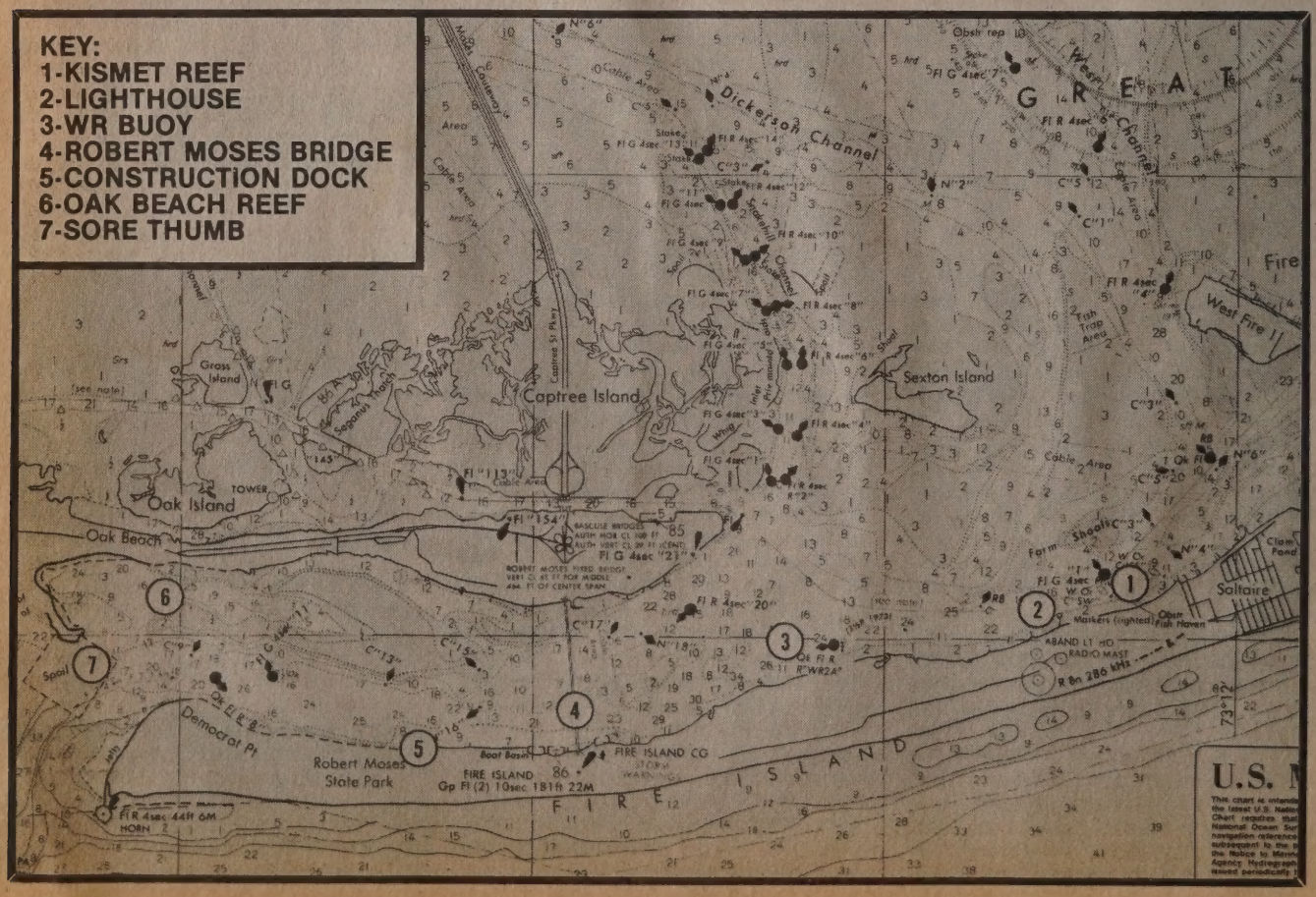
The months of September and October provide inshore anglers who work the Fire Island Inlet area with some unique opportunities to tangle with resident game fish. It is also a great time to stock the freezer for the long winter ahead with some less heralded, but fine tasting scrappers.

Like the crisp, cool weather which characterizes this time of the year, the fishing scene, too, takes on a new freshness. Gone are the high-powered racing hulls and the cocktail-buzzed joyriders who make summer days on these waters a test of survival. Also gone with summer's heat is the weed problem which frequently plagues anglers in this area during the summer months and which, on certain stages of the tide, makes some types of fishing difficult at best.

The key targets of small boat anglers here during these two "golden months" include blues, weaks, stripers, fluke, flounder and blackfish. What follows is a "menu" of these species and the options available for taking them in the Fire Island Inlet area.

I suppose we should start with fluke since they are already in good supply as we move into the fall and are likely to be the first to fade from the scene. The summer flatties can usually be counted on to remain in the picture through the end of September. While many boatmen may have had their fill of fluking by the time Labor Day rolls around, they would do well to schedule a few fall fluke trips. Now is the time to take advantage of the build-up which occurs in all South Shore inlets during September. As cool nights begin to drop, bay water temperatures, the flatties congregate in the deep waters of the inlet as a prelude to their offshore migration. Some of the best fluke action of the year is a possibility at this time. As the month of September progresses, the hot area, which generally stretches from the Lighthouse to the Sore Thumb, gradually diminishes until only the mouth of the inlet and the ocean bottom just outside the inlet surrender fish.

Those looking to cap their fluke season with some larger fish would do well to drift live snappers which abound in the waters at this time. Just keep in mind that you won't be in for any fast paced action but you can be sure that only quality fish will grace



your cooler or fish box.

Those who like their fish big and mean may get an opportunity to tangle with some real slammer blues in rather sedate settings during September and October. No big numbers, mind you, but the chance for anglers accustomed to a steady diet of one and two pound blues all summer long to take a teen size chopper or two without breaking the inlet.

It is usually mid-September when some of these big slammers always seem to take up residence at such locations as the Kismet Reef, Fire Island Lighthouse and the WR (wreck) buoy. The largest bluefish I've ever seen in my life, which includes fish to over 20 lbs., took a live bunker I was trying to feed to a cow bass atop the Kismet Reef one September evening five or six years back. The huge fish was on its side and barely within reach of my gaff when luck gave out and the mono leader which had been wedged into the corner of the big blue's jaw slipped out and raked across his razor sharp teeth. I'll spare the remaining details of this story for another time and place and leave it for you to judge yourself. I only bring it up now for those "Doubting Thomases" who refuse to accept that big blues do indeed work their way deep into the belly of Great South Bay. Down at the inlet proper, the Sore Thumb frequently gets a brief shot at these fish as we slide into October.

Bait, live or chunked, in the form of bunker, snappers, sand porgies or mackerel is **the** way to score with these fish and oh, by the way, don't forget your wire leaders. For those better skilled at boat handling and a yearning for something a little more exciting, the white water on the east and west bars of the inlet produce some real monster blues each fall to those who throw popping plugs into the maelstrom. If you're not experienced at running the white water of inlets, though, I would advise you go the bait route and stay away from the bars.

Big stripers, always a nemesis to anglers in this area once the June run subsides (if it develops at all), provide anglers here with a reasonably good shot at a few fish during September, but more so in October. Night tides, while productive, are not necessary as I have taken many cow bass in broad daylight, particularly at this point in the season. Regardless of whether you fish day or night or both, you will have to put in a good amount of time if a trophy bass is your objective. This isn't Montauk or the Sluiceway. A couple of fish over 20 lbs. is considered good fishing in recent years and if you do better, then you've had a banner trip.

Live eels, flounder, bunker, and blackfish account for nearly all of the big stripers that are caught in the area although trolled plugs, bucktails, umbrella rigs and clam chum does account for a small percentage of fish in the 20-50 lb. range. Spots to work over include the Kismet Reef, Lighthouse, WR buoy, Robert Moses Bridge, the site of the construction docks, the Oak Beach Reef and the Sore Thumb. The ebb tide is preferred by most bassmen but the flood is often productive at spots located further back in the bay.

A live bunker did in this fine striper.

Those who have been beating their brains out for the past few springs in search of tiderunner weakfish will be pleased to know that there is a far easier way to go about getting your trophy yellowfin. Beginning in early September and continuing through the end of the month, live snappers, bunker and blackfish drifted along the bottom on the flood tide near the Lighthouse, WR buoy and alongside the Sore Thumb, produce many large weakfish. Ten pound fish don't even raise an eyebrow and twelve to fourteen pounders are not at all uncommon. If the crowds and picky fishing which have characterized the "spring run" over the past three years have gotten you down, then a dose of fall weakfishing may be just the pickup you need.

Now for those looking to fill the freezer with some good eating fillets, Fire Island Inlet area boatmen have one of the finest blackfish spots on the South Shore in their backyard. The Kismet Reef can be counted on to surrender plenty of tautogs to those using fiddler crab or green crab baits. I prefer the former, but it does seem that green crabs sometimes produce the larger bulldogs. The Reef begins drawing a crowd by the middle of September and throughout much of October, anchoring space is at a premium. The more recently created reef (actually a sunken barge) at Oak Beach is beginning to come into its own, however, which should help take some of the pressure off of the Kismet structure.

If you don't want to wait until next spring to satisfy your thirst for flounder, some pretty good flattie action can be had in the large pocket framed by the Oak Beach shore line and the Sore Thumb from mid-September through October. Most fish will average 3/4 of a pound to a pound and a quarter, but enough fish in the 1½ to 2½ lb. range are taken to make things interesting. The usual worms and red-dyed clams work here but I prefer fresh skimmer or sea clams right from the shell.

Well, if you're one of those who always thought that fishing season ends after Labor Day, I hope I've opened your eyes to the potential which September and October affords inshore anglers in the Fire Island Inlet area. If you already know what everyone else has been missing, then my only advice to you is to choose your entree with care and enjoy!

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) SHARKS HAVE POOR EYESIGHT, THEIR PRIMITIVE EYES MISTAKE PEOPLE FOR FOOD FISH AND THEY SEE FAST MOVING OBJECTS IN THE WATER ONLY AS A BLUR. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(2) MINNOWS HAVE TEETH ONLY IN THEIR THROATS. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

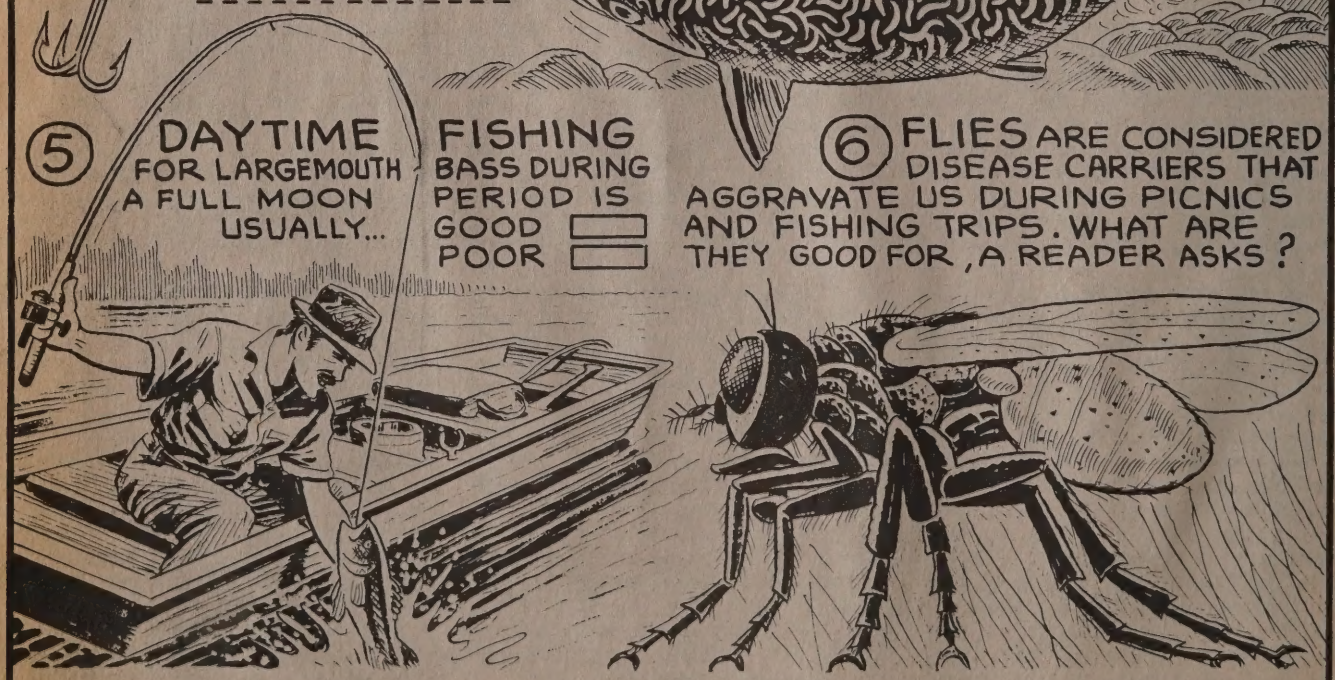
(4) BROOK TROUT SPAWN WHEN THEY
ARE ONE YEAR OLD ☐
2 YEARS OLD ☐
3 YEARS OLD ☐
4 YEARS OLD ☐

(3) PLUGS THAT NEITHER SINK NOR RISE WHEN AN ANGLER...

...PAUSES DURING THE RE-TRIEVE ARE CALLED

(5) DAYTIME FISHING FOR LARGEMOUTH BASS DURING A FULL MOON PERIOD IS USUALLY...
GOOD ☐
POOR ☐

(6) FLIES ARE CONSIDERED DISEASE CARRIERS THAT AGGRAVATE US DURING PICNICS AND FISHING TRIPS. WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR, A READER ASKS?



1 - ALL FALSE. BIOLOGISTS HAVE FOUND THAT SHARKS SEE AS WELL AS MAN IN TEN TIMES LESS LIGHT. 2 - TRUE. 3 - NEUTRAL DENSITY OR SUSPENSION PLUGS. 4 - 2 YEARS OLD. 5 - POOR. 6 - FLIES CLEAN UP ENORMOUS QUANTITIES OF ANIMAL AND VEGETATIVE WASTE, POLLINATE MORE FLOWERS THAN BEES DO AND CONSUME HARMFUL CROP DAMAGING INSECTS.

FALL FLOUNDER TIPS

by Matt Ahern

Many seasons of trial and error form the foundation for those "tricks of the trade" which lead to more flatties in the box.

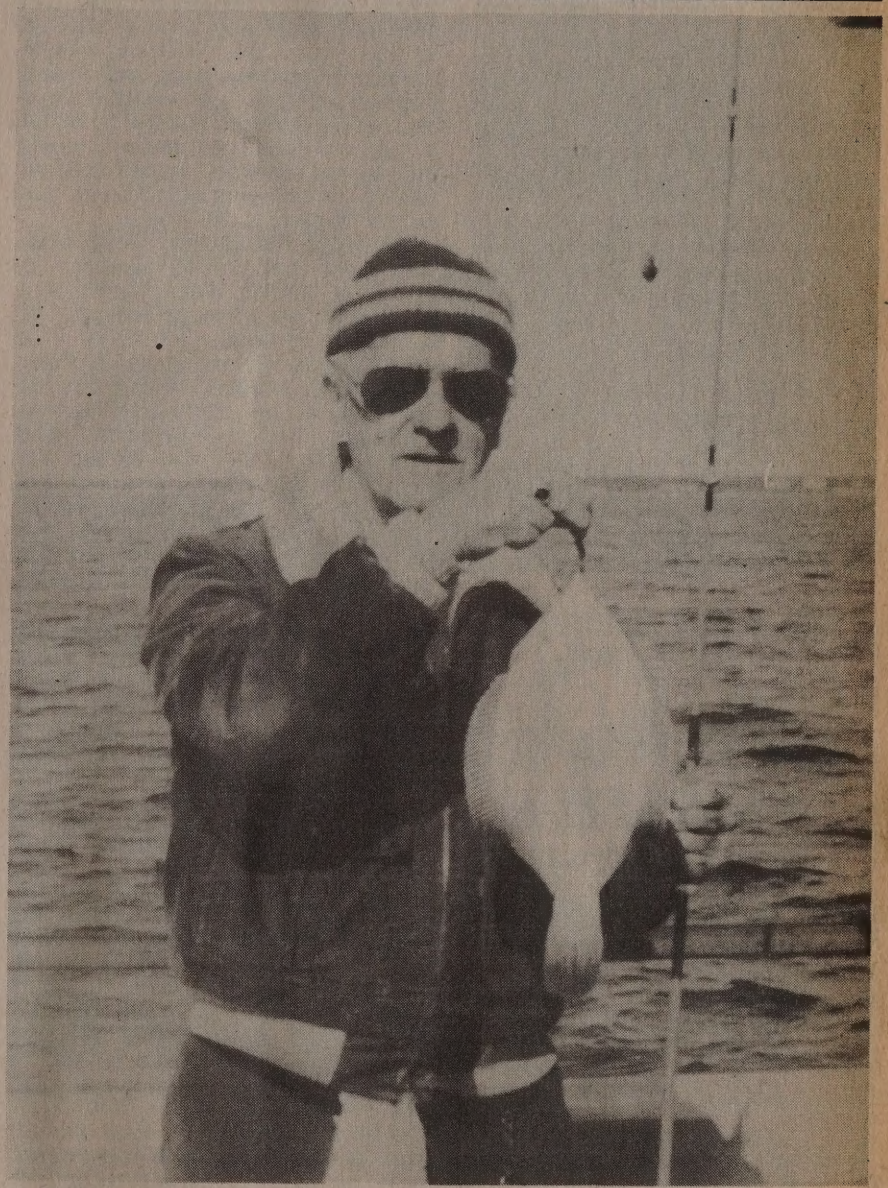
Ordinarily, my writing a fall flounder article at this time could be called "rushing the season." But not this year. For the past several weeks I've been receiving mail from readers who tell me of the excellent flounder fishing they've been enjoying since mid-August. And these flounder aren't "postage stamps," but husky fish, many averaging a pound and better. Some fellows told me they had even given up fluke fishing to get in on the action.

Why there should be so many fall flounder availabe this early in the season is anybody's guess. I do know, though, ever since that freak April snowstorm last spring, our fishing never did get back to normal. Certainly, something peculiar happened out there, something the effects of which we are still feeling—but let's make hay now while the sun shines; plenty of time to concern ourselves about the probable cause this winter.

You know, many times when readers write and seek information about flounder fishing they ask me to send "some tips." They want to know the secrets of successful flounder fishing. "C'mon, Matt, if you only send one good one, I'll be satisfied. I won't tell anyone...honest!" As bad as it makes me feel, I can never fully comply with these requests—for two reasons: One, it would take long pages to answer each letter in detail, and, two, it wouldn't be fair to those faithful reader/fishermen who are content to find their own answers and let the fishing chips fall where they may.

Also I believe whatever flounder fishing "secrets" I've discovered over those long, long fishing years should be the property of each reader of The Fisherman, not just a chosen few. These sound like unfeeling words, I'm sure, but this is how I explain it to those fellows who desire to get in on the "ground floor." And you know, instead of being offended, many of these fellows write back and say they understand my position. See—I always told you there's no one quite as understanding as a fellow fisherman. Certainly, there can be no better sports anywhere.

What follows are the important things I've learned about fall flounder fishing. Call them "secrets" or "tricks-of-the-trade," whatever, it doesn't matter. What they are is nothing more than common, ordinary horse-sense. They are an accumulation of trial, tribulation, effort, experiment, and heart-ache. And oh yes, joy—the joy of a fishing thought which comes unbidden from out of the blue and then succeeds beyond all expectation. These are most satisfying of all, for they prove that at long last I am "thinking" like a fish.



Light spinning tackle, plus a bit of finesse, will produce flounder like this.

Lest I lead you astray and take credit for what is not rightfully mine, let me say that many of these "tips," especially those that work best, are not the result of my efforts. They come from my long-time buddy Nick Hauck. To me, Nick is to flounder fishing what my boyhood chum Artie Leidecker is to codfishing—the best I've ever seen. Bar none.

Before we continue, let me tell you a little about Nick.

I first became acquainted with Nick during Spring of 1939—a day when I'm sure the cantankerous fishing

(Continued on next page.)

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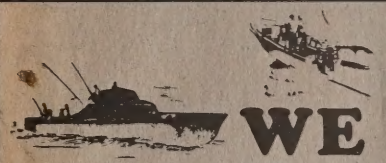

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gods were looking the other way. With nothing to do on this particular Sunday morning of that early April that year, I decided to visit Cross Bay Bridge at Howard Beach and watch the action. Of the scores of fishermen lined on both sides of the bridge, most had one or two flounder, but when I came to this solitary fisherman, even then busily cranking in another victim of his finesse, I saw a dozen or more flat flounder already in his bucket.

One word led to another and I knew, just knew, mind you, that here was a flounder fisherman head and shoulders above any I'd ever met up to that time. Nick had no private transportation those days, and when I told him I not only had a car but could also devote Sundays to fishing, we hit it right off. Nick knew flounder spots that always produced, all we needed, he said, was a car to get to them, and seeing as I had a car...

So began our fishing companionship which continues to this day.

Nick is like no other fisherman I know. He isn't much for talking. We will often sit quietly for hours in a skiff and if we say more than a dozen words to each other throughout the day, it is very unusual indeed. But we read each other so well we don't need words to communicate. Should the thought flit through my mind that perhaps it is time to make a move, within minutes Nick will reel in and lay his rod aside, waiting for word to pull anchor. Uncanny is the only word for it.

We began our joint flounder fishing in Island Park—Reynold's Channel and Schaeffer's Creek to be exact. Fishing was always good; by that I mean we never failed to put fish in the bucket. Our average catch would be about 30 good-sized flounder, and exceptional catches would, and often did, reach 70. But there were days we had to use "tricks" to get those fish in a biting mood.

One of these "tricks" was the use of fresh skimmer clam during low water slack periods. Now, up to then, as far as I was concerned, bloodworm was the only bait to use for flounder; the thought never occurred to me that there could possibly be anything better. But on this particular day in Schaeffer's Creek, as the tide slacked off, the fish followed true to form. By the time it reached its slack period, our fishing came to its expected, grinding halt. But this was acceptable to me, for I had never known it to be otherwise.

But it wasn't acceptable to Nick. He immediately brought forth a dozen or so skimmer slices (which, unknown to me, he had squirreled away in his tackle box). "Use these," he said, tossing several slices on the seat. Well, I didn't have a bit of faith in those skimmer slices—but this self-inflicted doubt lasted all of two minutes. Nick (as usual) came up with the first flounder—a good one, about 1½ lbs. Then I got one even larger; then Nick followed suit with a double-header. For the next half-hour or so, up until the tide began to move again, we had great flounder action on those skimmer slices; all big fish, too, the likes of which I had never known as possible in so short a period of time. My record book tells me we caught 14 flounder during that 30 minute period, the largest about two pounds. So impressed was I at the time that I listed these large fish as "sea flounder."

Now to a few tips I've garnered over the years.

First, let's look at tackle. Always use light tackle when flounder fishing; the lighter, the better (within reason). Sure, you can catch flounder on drop lines, codfishing tackle—just about anything. But you'll have more fun and catch more fish with the light stuff. Flounder fishing and spinning tackle go hand in hand. Many times, especially when water temperatures are low, flounder become very dainty biters indeed. This is the reason many flounder are deeply hooked. You can avoid this nuisance by using light spinning gear and **never** allowing your attention to wander.

As for hooks, I'm sure you use the #9 Chestertown, commonly known as the flounder hook. But if you want to catch more flounder (and larger flounder), try the #6 regular-shank Sproat. (These are sometimes called "trout hooks"). I've been using these Sproats for a half-century and would never change no matter what the inducement. I believe I was the first one locally to introduce these hooks for flounder, but I don't know for certain. What I do know is that they work! (See, experimenting pays off!)

Even when deeply swallowed, which is highly unusual, a Sproat #6 is easily removed by grasping the snell firmly in one hand, the fish in the other, and giving a sharp tug. Out it comes! If the bend is sprung, it is a simple matter to return it to shape by pressing against any firm object. If the point becomes dull, don't bother to hone—toss it overboard and replace. These hooks are inexpensive and I remember paying 19 cents per box of 100. Even at today's inflated prices, they are still cheaper than other hooks.

If you can't find these hooks already snelled, you'll have to do it yourself. If you don't know how this is done, send a stamped, self-addressed #10 business-size envelope to my home: 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, NY 11946, and I'll send you a free copy of DuPont's 32-page knot-tying booklet which describes and illustrates two methods of snelling hooks, besides how to tie many other useful fishing knots. One thing: **don't** send your request to the office as this will only cause delay and unnecessary expense. Several weeks ago I sent out over one thousand of these extremely popular booklets, but I have a few left—there's one for you!

As for flounder bait during early fall, the best is blood or sandworm. Tradition says use bloodworm in

south shore bays, and sandworm on the north shore. But I've had days when only sandworm would produce along the south shore, so perhaps it is best to take along a dozen of each. Just to be on the safe side. When the water cools, say from the third week of October on, then you can rely on soft clam (steamers) and that wonder of wonders—fresh skimmer slices. No salted stuff, please.

You'll find it best to tandem-tie two hooks. This is simply done by tying the snell of one hook to the middle of the other. And for goodness sake—don't use one of those abominable flounder spreaders! They are nothing but weed-catchers, and the chief cause of not catching those wily big flounder we all enjoy catching so much. Don't forget, those bigger flounder got that way mostly because they are a bit more intelligent than their smaller brethren—don't alert them that all is not well by using a flounder spreader.

When using worm bait, don't hesitate to use good-sized pieces. At least 1½'' long should be considered minimal. And make sure the barb of the hook is exposed a quarter-inch from the end. Don't worry, flounder never notice and doing this assures easier hooking. It also allows an enticing bit of bait to wiggle in the current—a sure fish-getter. At times you'll find bloodworm lively and tough, and if there's anything that turns a big flounder off it is tough bait. Don't fish it like that (unless you want small fish). Simply toss the worm against any hard object with sufficient force to kill it. The worm will immediately become limp and be in prime condition. One note of caution: don't attempt it with sandworms (it smashes them into a zillion pieces); but then sandworm is naturally soft enough anyway.

One more bait tip. Never, NEVER bunch your bait, especially worm, around the hook's bend. You'll only attract small fish. Always allow your bait to lie straight out on bottom. When you do this, you'll see your catch increase.

Right now, most flounder are caught in the normally cooler, deeper areas of bays and creeks. But when water temperatures drop, those flounder will head for the sunny flats and stay there until October's end in normal seasons. But from November on, look for them in the deepest spots in your fishing area.

There are more ''tips'' on hand, but this is about all I can devote space to right now—but we'll eventually get to them in another article.

Let me leave you with this: Please return those ''postage-stamps'' you are sure to catch. They are worthless; to keep them is nothing but a crime against Nature. Not only will you be assuring yourself of excellent flounder fishing in the future when you return those midgets, but also for generations of fishermen to come. Let us help Nature in her mighty striving to replenish our sadly depleted fishery.

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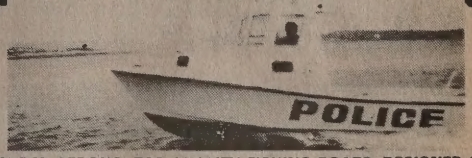

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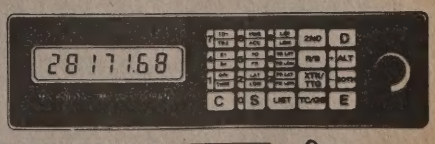

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FALL TRAVEL FOR FRESHWATER FANS:

LAKE ONTARIO STEELHEAD

by Lou Truppi

They're the toughest rainbow trout found anywhere. During the fall season they ascend many rivers and streams that drain Lake Ontario. These slab-sided rainbows begin their spawning run as soon as water temperature and full flowing rivers cultivate this impending urge. Fresh from the open lake waters where they've gorged themselves on alewives the past several seasons, they migrate to the flowing river waters to fulfill their cycle.

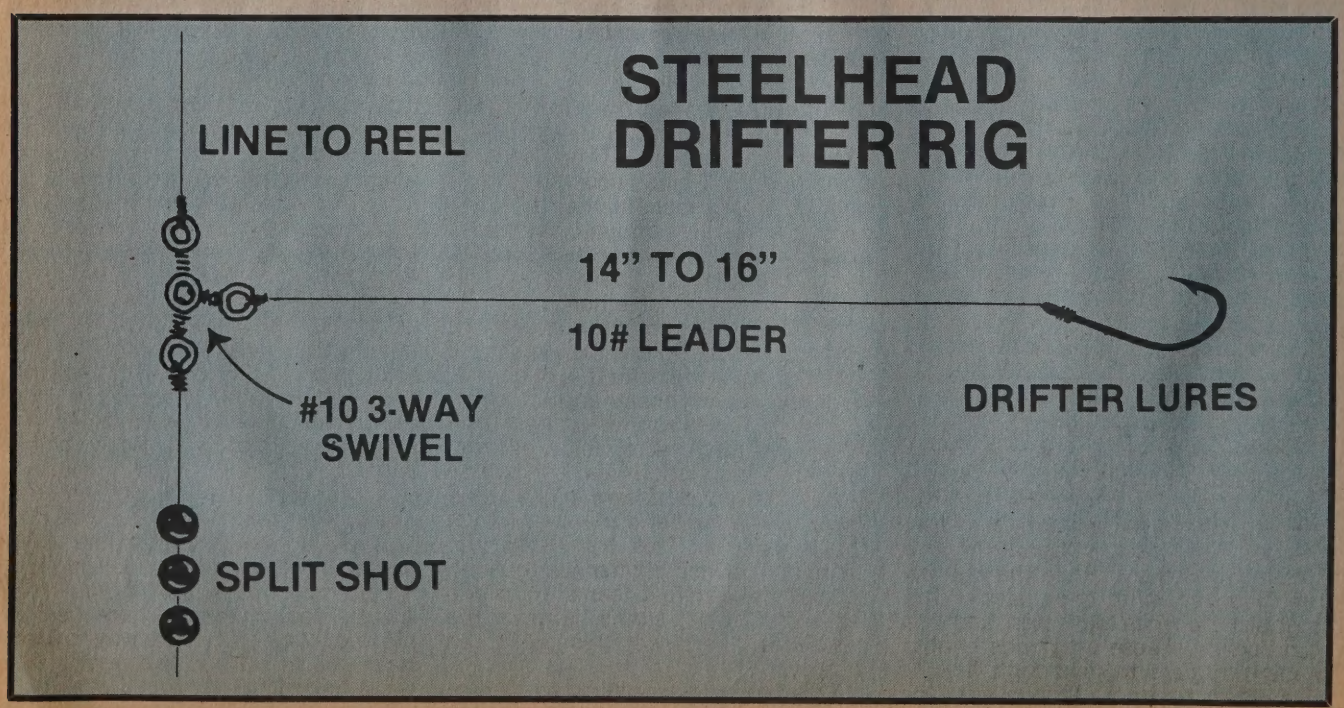
Unlike their spring run counterparts, the fall run steelhead react differently. The springtime water flows as cold as in winter. This very cold water inhibits the steelhead's feeding instincts. In conjunction with their urge to spawn, they can become most reluctant feeders, while the fall fish enjoy water temperatures much more to their liking. They remain active and will strike readily. The fall steelies remain on their feed for many weeks after they enter the streams. In fact, many are drawn into specific rivers to feed on the eggs being dislodged by the spawning salmon. Probably the salmon itself does as much to trigger the steelheads leaving the lake prematurely and to begin their run as any other factor. One can readily attest to this fact by the large number of steelhead accidentally snagged by the "fisherman" snatching salmon each fall.

The Salmon River and many surrounding streams such as the Black, Sandy Creeks North and South, the Oswego, Niagara and Genesee Rivers all boast salmon runs. You can bet the steelhead are not far behind. In fact, any stream or even small brook that dots this region is a likely candidate for a steelhead run.

The steelhead, unlike the salmon, will not go to great lengths to find the river of their emergence. Many stray to surrounding rivers drawn by heavy salmon run or a strong runoff that reaches well into the lake. As they ascend these streams, they sometimes will detour within the river and take up residence in various feeder brooks. A good procedure is to leave the crowds and scout the area. Generally, you'll end up alone surrounded by good size fresh run steelies. Under these conditions you'll do better to foster a cautious upstream approach so that you will not spook the fish. Many times in the smaller streams the fish will hold in the deepest pools and runs. By cautious observance you can note finning movements and flashes to pinpoint where they're laying within the pool. Once noted, you can accurately walk your offering through the most productive water without alarming the fish. As in deer hunting, it's much better if you see your quarry before he notices you.

You can count on several factors to trigger fresh run steelhead throughout the fall season. Once the run starts, these factors tend to release new fish upstream periodically. The steelheads do not all run upstream at once; rather they consolidate water temperature, food, river flow and spawning urges to induce their migration. The neophyte or expert angler should be aware of any one of these factors for any given time to ensure good steelheading. Two examples would be during the height of the salmon run—many steelhead will enter the rivers to feed on their eggs, while a heavy fall rain that swells the river and causes it to penetrate well out into the lake will initiate other steelies to begin their runs.

Keep abreast of current weather changes and streamside conditions and you'll be on hand to intercept many fresh run fish. The reason I emphasize this point is simply these fresh fish, or silver fish as they're referred to by most regulars, tend to hit very readily. Fresh from the lakes they have less caution and exhibit strong tendencies to destroy tackle. So take advantage of these conditions



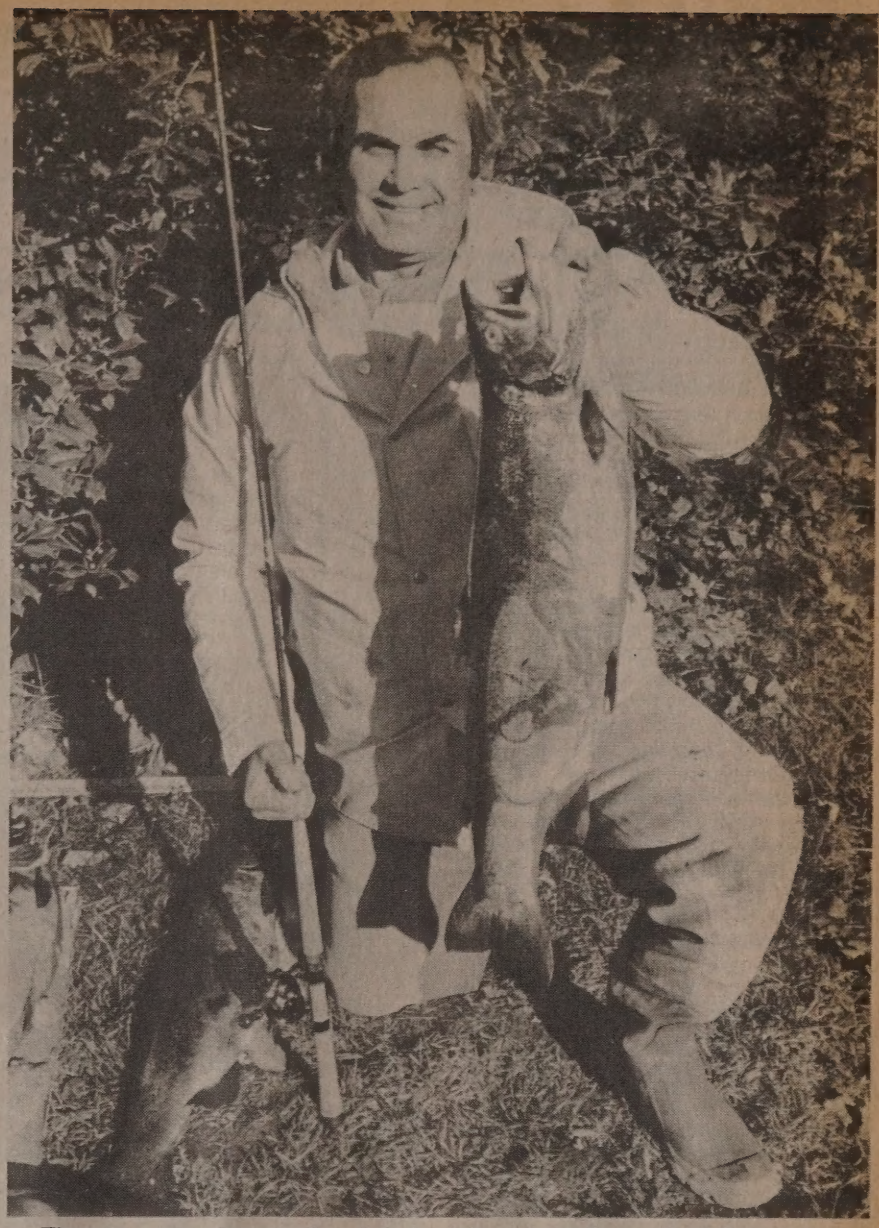
and your aching arms will tell the story.

These fall fish succumb readily to lures or bait. Most regulars including myself fish a mixture. Early on, I like spawn sacs to tempt the steelies. The spawn sacs are simply fish eggs (brown trout or steelhead eggs are favored) tied up in a square inch of red or fluorescent colored nylon mesh to form a sac the size of a dime. An important point here is that the eggs be as fresh as possible. The spawn sac is fished on a three-way swivel rig and allowed to bounce bottom. Sufficient weight should be added to accomplish this, not too much or you will continually snag bottom. A lighter mono, you'll note, is employed on one side of the swivel to allow the snagged weight to break off thus saving your rig. This time of year a single salmon egg has been known to also turn the trick. Use the jumbo size eggs in natural tones and drift them on size four or six gold salmon egg hooks. Do not use the light wire hook, but purchase the much stronger forged styles with the baitholders and eye up. The hook is knotted to the end of the mono and enough split shot are added 18'' or so above the hook to ensure a bottom bouncing drift.

Many lures will take these fall bow's. Some of the more successful ones are the spoon, drifter lures and fluorescent colored spinner. When fishing any of these lures, opt for ball bearing swivels that possess duo-locks. My years of catching these steelhead has taught me to counter some of their tricks. Since I generally fish alone, I beach many of my fish. Almost without exception the last ditch effort to gain their freedom, the steelie will roll over and over causing many normal swivels to part when pressure is applied. The ball bearing will allow the fish to twist without weakening the line or parting the swivel. A sound investment to land that trophy.

Lures and baits can be fished in the same manner. Casts should be delivered to the head of the pool and allowed to hit bottom, then bounced along in rhythm with your rod tip. Lures can be retrieved but allowed to remain close to bottom. Lure weight should be commensurate with water depth and speed. Too heavy a lure and you'll find yourself constantly snagged. Too light a lure and you'll be out of the steelie's strike zone. Ideally the bait and lure should track no more than a foot off the bottom. If you're not snagging on occasion, then you're fishing too high.

Steelhead rods should be at least 8' to 9' in length to accomplish these drifts and maintain feel. The more line off the water, the more feel the angler will have walking his bait through the pool. Oftentimes the steelie will simply inhale the bait on the bounce. With less slack, the slightest stop can be noted and the fish hooked. These long rods enable wading anglers to gain high line to lure entry levels thus allowing for smoother belly snag free drifts. This is critical to becoming a successful steelhead fisherman. These longer, softer rods will also allow the use of finer diameter monofilaments. Light lines, especially on midday clear water conditions, will outfish heavier monos ten to one. I prefer 6 or 8 lb. test for all my fall steelheading.



There's some nice steelhead to be taken from the end of September through mid-November. This 17¾ lber. was caught last fall in the Salmon River.

Another strong point for these long, soft rods is that lighter monos can be used to take big fish via this style rod. In simple terms, many anglers seem to miss this rod's softness added to an inherent stretch factor in all monos. This combined length and soft action allows the rod to absorb much more shock than a shorter stiffer blank ever could hope to. This translates into being able to land big fish via the long rod without constant fear of light line failure. Try it; you'll simply be amazed at the power this outfit can display.

This fishing generally starts about the end of September and falls off around mid-November. Peak time is the month of October on most larger rivers on into early November on some of the smaller streams. Most of this fall fishing centers around the eastern shore of Lake Ontario with its many tributary streams. The western tier of Lake Ontario holds up its end with the major activity centering around the Niagara River, while the Little and Big Salmon Rivers near the town of Pulaski, New York have delivered a solid steelhead and salmon run for the past several seasons.

If you go, dress warm and call ahead for reservations. Sleeping quarters are tough to come by at the height of the salmon run. Be sure and spool ample fresh line on your reels and tie decent knots. These fish are big and tough and a sure way to lose a trophy is to rely on last year's line. Good Luck!

"WRECK" A TROPHY BLUE

by Gerald Hahn

Live bait is the keynote to success when searching out south shore wrecks for "gorillagators."

Between New Jersey's Cape May and Block Island lie more than 1,500 wrecks, ranging from sailing ships of the Colonial period to oil tankers of the 20th Century. Some wrecks are unusual specimens. For instance, seven miles east of Block Island lies a 252-foot Nazi submarine in 110 feet of water. The U-boat was destroyed by American naval ships in the spring of '44, only a few hours before Germany accepted unconditional surrender. Then, as now, however. the fish residing there couldn't care less.

Exploring wrecks has become a popular and exciting pastime, but when fishermen think of wrecks, bottom fish and party boats generally come to mind. All kinds of baitfish and scavengers, and such bottom species as porgies, sea bass, blackfish, and various members of the cod family are the typical inhabitants of a wreck. Predatory fish are seldom sought at a wreck. At times, however, when offshore fishing for predators is slow, party boat skippers will check a wreck. The wreck usually does not attract a great number of predators. It attracts quality fish instead, such as the kind of bluefish New Yorkers fondly call Gorillagators. Indeed, so enormous are the bluefish at some deep water wrecks that an 8-pounder is considered a mere snapper. Teen-sized choppers predominate and sometimes trophy blues over 20 pounds are taken here as well.

Normally, bluefishing takes place over relatively unobstructed bottom, over rises or ledges holding large schools of baitfish. In the day, fishermen using 7 or 8 foot conventional rods and 3/0 reels toss diamond jigs to these vicinities, and blues averaging 6 to 8 pounds come flying over the rail, often without need of a gaff. At night, the same locales are fished as productively with bait—sandeels, spearing, butterfish, strips of menhaden, herring, or mackerel. Day or night, the angler seldom encounters the problems of fishing over a wreck. Seldom, too, does he catch truly large bluefish, trophy fish.

Weighing up pool winning choppers taken on an ocean wreck is no easy task.

On one slow bluefishing trip my friend Harry and I encountered on the south shore, the party boat skipper decided to make a last experimental stop at the Oregon Wreck, not far from Patchogue's well-known Outer Banks. It took some time before he was able to maneuver the ship over the wreck, for although it is substantial, on the boundless ocean it can easily be missed. Checking his electronics, dropping markers over the side, the skipper anchored the ship after about 20 minutes and finally tooted the horn. Instantly, 4 ounce diamond jigs plummeted to the wreck about 90 feet below, and several hook-ups occurred at the stern and the portside rear. Fishermen accustomed to bailing 6-pound blues like hay groaned as they tried to crank their reels and straighten their doubled-over rods against these 12 and 14 pound marauders. Other fishermen, unfortunately, caught real estate instead, their jigs fouling on

the wreck below.

After a while, jig fishing slowed and most of the fishermen switched to bait, which was quickly prepared by the mates. Some anxious anglers removed the surgical tubing from their jigs and added slices of mackerel or whole butterfish to the hook. Those with more patience fashioned true bottom rigs.

A south shore bottom rig for blues generally consists of a brown colored Beak or O'Shaughnessy hook, size 6/0, on a 4-inch, stiff wire leader. The coffee-colored leader (for low visibility) is connected to the hook at one end and to a black barrel swivel at the other end by means of haywire twists. The swivel is then connected to the main line through a dropper loop about 12-18" above an end loop for the sinker. Bank sinkers weighing 5 or 6 oz. are used most of the time, although occasionally an 8 oz. sinker is required. When blues are feeding higher up, the angler fashions a lighter rig. Dispensing with the heavy bank sinker, he substitutes a small clinch sinker on the main line about 2' or 3' above the hook. In this case the barrel swivel end of the wire leader is tied directly to the main line with an improved clinch knot, thereby eliminating the need for a dropper.

These rigs are excellent for fishing the open bottom. For wreck fishing, however, a slightly different rigging method is employed. A 3' or 4' leader of 40 lb. test is first connected to the main line via a barrel swivel and two improved clinch knots, and an end loop at the bottom secures the sinker as before. However, the dropper loop is tied much higher up, from 18" to 36" above the sinker; otherwise the hook will surely snag on the wreck. The hook and the wire leader are the same ones mentioned, but when rigged this way the hook usually clears the wreck. Moreover, should it not, then the line will break at the swivel and not at the rod tip. At today's prices, over 100' of 40 lb. test monofilament is a considerable saving.

Returning to the Oregon, the smart anglers lowered their baited rigs carefully and hooked a few more teen-sized choppers. Inexperienced anglers, however, let out too much line in great haste and again lost their rigs (or worse, their lures). In the midst of all this activity, I noticed that Harry, who was using a surprisingly small amount of bait, had caught neither fish nor wreck. "Big fish like big baits!" I counseled him as if he had requested it.

"I know," he answered. "I'm looking for a **bigger** blue."

Within a few minutes Harry felt a faint tremor on the line and brought up a bergall.

"You caught the winner," I chuckled.

"Wait," Harry responded coolly.

At 1½ lbs., the bergall was perhaps a winner after all. It was the largest bergall I had seen all season. The fish, moreover, was lighter and pinker than its smaller relatives. Harry carefully removed the hook from the bergall's jaw and like a surgeon transplanted it just ahead of the dorsal fin. The bergall was bleeding a little, but otherwise was still frisky. Harry lowered the bergall gently and gave it line to swim. The dazed baitfish, with a hook in its shoulder and a 6 oz. sinker dangling 2½ feet below its belly, moved erratically. Carefully paying out line, Harry soon felt the bergall's tremors increase and the line slowly tightening. He engaged the reel. After pausing momentarily, Harry felt the predator's full weight on the line, and he lifted the rod smartly and set the hook several times, making sure it was solidly embedded in the predator's mouth.

By no means was the battle won at this point, for the stunned bergall had moved to the other side of the boat. Harry, in mad but controlled pursuit, chased his quarry, ducking in front of some anglers, passing behind others, and gingerly maneuvering his rod around several unattended rods in their holders. Although the chase seemed to go on forever, it took only several minutes for the enormous blue to surface, since the fish had taken the bergall at mid-level water. Harry's tense arms aching, his rod bent like a catapault, he nonetheless worked the fish toward the gaffer. The thrashing blue weighed 20 lbs., and Harry had his **bigger** fish, a trophy.

More than anything, king-sized bluefish are attracted to natural baits, especially live ones. In eastern Long Island, for instance, large blues are taken on whole frozen bunker or herring. Larger ones, however, are sometimes taken on live-lined tinker mackerel. Likewise, on Long Island Sound does the experienced bluefish angler look first for a school of bunker. Then after snagging one on a weighted treble hook, he transfers the wounded bait to his bluefish rig and sends it home to a monster blue. On the south shore, too, the outsized chopper prefers a live bait, and the most likely place a fisherman will find both is at a wreck. No doubt, diamond jigging has its moments; many hefty fish are caught on lures and on dead baits as well. Nevertheless, the majority of trophy fish are lazy and sly and not easily caught. No wonder they live to grow so large! What catches their attention most is a crippled baitfish, a prey that is easily inspected. The baitfish's trailing blood and other pungent odors and its frightened tremors are irresistible to the largest, wiliest blues.

The next time your skipper decides to check out a deep water wreck for blues or other gamefish, be prepared. At one wreck near Coxes Ledge, for example, summer codfish anglers occasionally hook king-sized blues. At any comparable wreck, try catching the bait first, and then live-lining it. Most people can catch their share of average-sized blues. Landing a trophy is something else!

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DAIWA'S $50,000 BLUEFISH DERBY A "SUCCESS"

by Russ Wilson

There were some very happy people attending the Daiwa $50,000 Bluefish Derby Fish-Off at "The Moorings" in Point Pleasant, NJ, on September 4, 1982. The reason? Well, for at least two anglers there were brand new boat, motor and trailer combinations to win. A third person would share the joy of winning an all-expense paid trip to Costa Rica. Not bad for a day's fishing with an experienced charter captain to handle the clean-up chores and to make sure the angler had all the assistance he needed.

Bob Birchler, area rep for the Daiwa Corp, arranged for the Fish-Off contestants to have equal opportunities at the grand prizes. Birchler lined up four local charter skippers and saw to it that each angler was treated royally.

Skippers who participated were: Captain Bob Orrok on the "Pencil Popper"; Captain Steve Pepe on the "Sabre"; Captain Ed Folio on the "Sly Fox," and Captain Art Rabstein on the "Stacy." Each skipper had two anglers plus a member of the press who served as observer.

Saturday, the fourth, was a bright day with mild winds and calm seas and the boats spread out in search of a bluefish worthy of winning the big money. But, as often happens, no one remembered to notify the blues that someone was coming! Fishing was slow at most of the usual hotspots.

Captain Orrok said he worked south to the Tolton Lumps, back to the Slough, inshore to the Klondike and then headed north to the Shrewsbury Rocks.

By midday, all of the boats were chumming at the Rocks and some larger bluefish were caught. None of those 14 to 17 lb. slammers, but a scattering of 8 to 10 lbers. and a couple of larger choppers came over the gunnels.

At the weigh-in ceremony it was Mike Contessa of Moriches, Long Island who emerged victorious. His 13¼ lb. slammer was caught on a Daiwa SL-23L rod, 30-H Sealine reel

Mike Contessa of Moriches, Long Island with the 13¼ lb. slammer blue that took first place and won him a Ranger boat and Evinrude engine.

Scott Usher's second place fish weighed 11½ lbs. and "caught" Scott a Grumman boat and Evinrude outboard.

and 20 lb. test Trilene line. It ate a bunker chunk attached to a 6/0 hook and was promptly gaffed by Captain Orrok on the Pencil Popper.

Finishing second was Scott Usher of Teaneck, New Jersey. Usher fished on the Sly Fox with Capt. Ed Folio and he, too, caught his winning 11½ lb. chopper on a bunker chunk at Shrewsbury Rocks. Usher used a Daiwa SL 23-L rod, 50 H reel and 20 lb. line.

George Feneis of Oradel grabbed third place with a fish just one ounce less than Usher's 11½ lber. He was on the Sabre with Capt. Steve Pepe when the big slammer grabbed a bunker chunk.

Now, for the topper. Feneis and Usher are constant fishing companions. They have been fishing Shrewsbury Rocks all summer with one purpose in mind: to win the Daiwa Derby. Feneis owns a 23' Sea Craft, the Suzy Dee, and put in a lot of time with his friend Usher as they worked their way to victory. For them, the efforts were well rewarded.

Contessa won the Ranger boat, Evinrude motor and a trailer to haul his new rig. Usher drove home with this new Grumman 5.0 boat, Evinrude engine and a trailer. And, all three winners will soon be off to some fabulous fishing at Costa Rica.

Not bad for catching a couple of big bluefish. Wish I was one of the winners; a week at Costa Rica does not sound bad to me!

DARTER COUNTRY

by John Fritz

No other location on Long Island is as well suited to these simple wooden swimming plugs as the spray drenched rocks beneath the light at Montauk.

The experience and knowledge acquired by a surfman during his incalculable journeys along various beaches will allow him to fairly well determine which general type of lure will be effective in a specific situation. Nevertheless, a variety of lures is often necessary to counter any changes in the feeding habits of the desired gamefish or to cope with varying sea and weather conditions. For instance, when seeking school bass in the late fall along the Sound beaches of the North Fork, one can be assured that metal lures will take fish, but through the course of a season and particularly over a period of years, the specific tin which will yield the most consistent results has not remained the same. For example, last November the Tri-Fin one-ounce Teardrop Diamond Jig was the hottest item on the beach, but during the previous year the Hopkins and teaser combination put the most fish on the sand.

There are not many areas along the Long Island coast where surfmen can be certain of identical return engagements year after year with any of the three most popular surf fish, much less be confident that one particular lure will account for a majority of the fish caught. One such recurring rendezvous takes place each autumn under Montauk's famed lighthouse when an angler equipped with only a 2½ ounce yellow Gibbs darter can be assured that if fish are being taken this plug will account for more than its share. This does not imply that anyone, as long as he is in possession of a yellow darter, will put fish on the stringer. Fishing this area requires a certain amount of knowledge and skill, for the conditions under which the fishing is performed are among the most demanding of any encountered along the entire coast. Crowds, heavy seas, strong currents, and treacherous footing are but a few of the elements which must be dealt with. Yet, ask any regular if it's worth the effort and the answer will invariably be a decisive yes.

Assuming that the person intending to fish under the Light is capable of accurately casting a heavy lure repeatedly, then the proper choice of equipment is of the utmost importance to insure a likelihood of success, compatibility with the others fishing nearby, and a measure of safety and well being. The rod and reel, spooled with a minimum of 15 pound test line, should be adequate to forcefully cast 2 to 3 ounce plugs and to exert sufficient pressure to prevent medium sized fish—say to 15 lbs.—from running too far down tide. The reason for the second condition is because it is difficult to follow a fish over these jumbled rocks, therefore, with run of the mill fish it is better to hold one's position and bring the fish back to the angler. If the fish is too far down the line when it is brought close inshore the force of the surf will wash it into the rocks. Veterans fishing the Light prefer rods similar to the 11½ foot Lamiglass 1165, which will handle the necessary tasks quite easily.

On many occasions long casts will be a necessity, particularly when the fish are feeding in the rips and refuse to come close to the rocks. This condition is more likely to occur

Heavy seas and flying spray call for boots with soles that allow for good footing on slippery rocks.

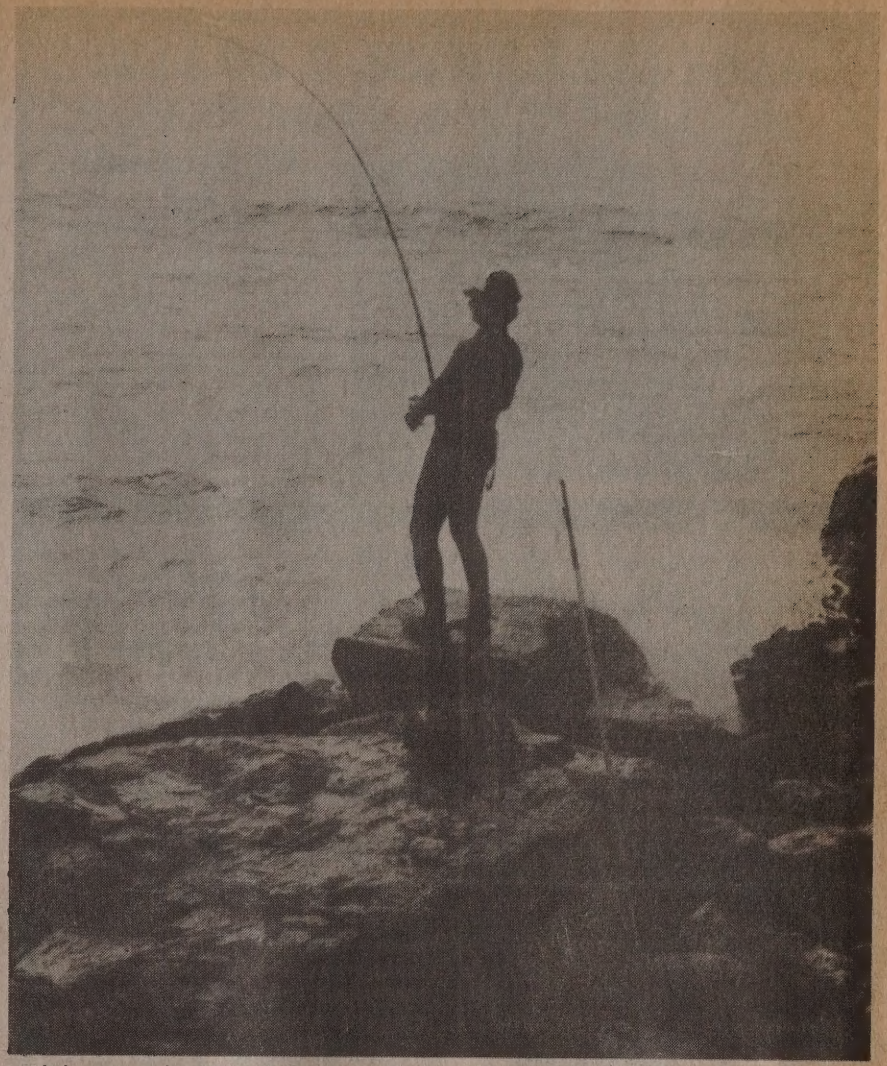
during the early stages of the tide when the angler is casting from the rocks on the left side of the point. A few muscular surfmen can be found who use 13 foot sticks in an effort to gain extra distance in the cast, but wielding a heavy stick for hours on end can be extremely tiresome. If the effort forces the angler to take frequent breaks then it would be advisable to use a lighter rod which will enable the fisherman to continue casting without interruption. The bottom line is to keep fishing for as long as any part of the tide remains, for one never knows when a pod of fish will move through the rips only to be gone before those lolling against the rocks can react.

Probably in no other location on the coast will there be more Crack 300 reels in use than here during the hectic days of the fall run. These prized reels were standard equipment in the past when they were readily available, for they performed well under the heavy use demanded by this type of fishing. At the present time, with these reels selling for $100 if one can be found, more and more Penn 706's and the skirted spool 750's are in evidence. Whatever the preference, a smooth operating drag is a must, therefore the Teflon drag washers should be checked for grit and salt residue before each session under the Light.

Much has been written in the past about the appropriate outerwear for this area, so whether an angler chooses a wet suit, waders and top or waterproof top, pants and short boots the most important item concerns the soles of the feet, for they should be shod with a non-skid covering. Secure footing can most likely be found from which to cast, but it is often necessary to climb down onto the lower rocks in order to gaff a fish. The footing here is uncertain in itself, but add to this the danger of being buffeted by the crashing waves and one can readily see that any foothold is precarious at best.

On nights when a heavy sea is sending the breakers smashing against the point, showers of spray will repeatedly engulf all who stand in its path. The caster, encased in waterproof gear with the hood covering his head, can remain dry except for the opening at the face which permits water to trickle down the chest when a sheet of spray catches one flush in the face. A light terrycloth towel, rolled and wrapped around the neck, will prevent a major portion of this water from reaching the inner clothing.

In most areas of the coast a strong neck light is not necessary, in fact in many instances a light is not needed at all, but here under the Light one must be able to spot his fish as it is being washed about the front row of rocks by the sea. The remaining item of particular importance is a long-handled gaff which will facilitate the difficult task of landing any decent fish on a night with any appreciable surf, which by the way are the conditions most frequently encountered in the fall.



It becomes important to use tackle stout enough to work a medium fish to the fisherman so that the angler need not leave his perch.

The incoming water is preferred by most of the regulars fishing the Light. This is not to say that there are no fish taken on the reverse flow, but trips are planned to make full use of the more productive tide which begins an hour or so after the turn as the incoming water swirls through the rocks of the central point. This point is favored by most of the knowledgeable surfmen, especially during the initial stages of the tide. As the tide gains strength the rip will angle closer to the shore within reach of those fishing the left or Scott's Hole side of the point. During the last of the incoming flow these anglers, who have anxiously watched their comrades at the point enjoy the better part of the action, will usually begin to take their share as the fish move around the corner.

Unfortunately, for the past year or so a great percentage of the better fishing during Montauk's fall run has taken place under the Light. This circumstance leads to very crowded fishing conditions and this coupled with heavy seas, strong currents and fierce crosswinds make tangled lines commonplace. Unhappily, this is part of the game, but there are a few tips which can reduce this annoyance. During the latter half of September and the month of October most surfmen will be casting heavy plugs, almost assuredly darters or casting swimmers locally known as bottle plugs. If everyone uses the same type of lure the distance of the cast and the rate of retrieve is almost identical, therefore if each angler casts uptide at a 45 degree angle much of the crossed line problem will be resolved. To further eliminate tangles an angler can withhold his cast until those nearest are well into their retrieve, for pinpoint accuracy in the darkness while perched on an uncomfortable rock is seldom achieved. Two or three anglers casting simultaneously in the same general direction will in all likelihood eventually foul each other's line.

It is also important not to let the lure drift too far down tide where it will pass in front of those much further down the line. When the plug reaches a point roughly 60 degrees past the perpendicular, speed up the retrieve. Even with these precautions fouled lines will undoubtedly occur. If you plug is picked up by another's line continue to reel in the slack until

(Continued on next page.)

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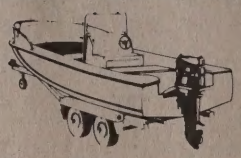

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the other angler has hold of the lure. Once he has the plug in his grasp, slacken off a bit so he can free the tangle. In a case where you are freeing another's plug try to ascertain the owner and warn him when you are about to throw the plug back into the water. Never drop the other plug down into the rocks, for that is sure to cause trouble. A bit of common sense and consideration for others will go a long way towards making for an enjoyable evening.

As stated in the opening lines of this article, the yellow Gibbs darter is the overall choice at this time. An angler equipped with just this one lure will undoubtedly score but there are occasions when other colors and a different style plug will produce more fish. On extremely dark nights a black or blue mackerel finish darter will be more visible to the gamefish. On the opposite extreme, moonlit nights will often result in a white darter being the hot plug and to throw in another variation, a brown darter is a dynamite color when weakfish fingerlings are the predominant species rounding the point. Add to this variety of colors those nights when an exceptionally high surf makes it difficult to work a darter properly, then a switch to a bottle plug will be in order. In those instances the rush of the waves will prevent the smaller lip of the darter from getting a bite where the exaggerated nose of the bottle plug will insure some semblance of a swimming action.

All of the current models of the Gibbs darters and bottle plugs are equipped with a bare treble tail hook. Some of the veteran surfmen will alter this standard setup by replacing the tail hook with either a 5/0 Siwash adorned with bucktail or a bucktailed treble of similar size. On occasion this added attraction will account for more fish. So now, rather than embarking on a night's fishing under the Light with one yellow darter rigged on the rod and a spare tucked into the top, in case a plug is lost which is more than likely, the expectant angler is confronted with a dilemma. Just so many of these large plugs will fit into a standard plug bag; that is probably why some of the regulars carry over-sized plug bags when they are fishing the Light. It is not necessary to wear the bag draped over the shoulder. The practice is to place the bag among the rocks beyond the reach of the surf, readily available should a change be necessary.

Surf fishing in the shadow of Montauk's beacon presents many obstacles not normally encountered when fishing other areas. This is especially true at the height of the fall migration when hordes of blues, weaks and a good percentage of striped bass lurk in the rips to feed on the swarms of baitfish rounding the point. These obstacles should not be a deterrent to those unfamiliar with the Light, for after a certain amount of expertise is gained this can be the highlight of many seasons to come.

East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

From **Star Island Yacht Club**, Charlie tells us about the tons and tons of bluefish that are being caught at Cartwright on both jigs and bait. Some blackfish are also being brought in from rocky areas, as are catches of large porgies, too. Lots of inshore fish, but it seems as though the tuna is a matter of history now.

Aboard Capt. Bob Bozak's charter boat **Christina II**, LIF subscriber Allan Tanzer and group bailed Cartwright blues like there was no tomorrow. They all quit after five hours as there was just no more room left in the boat for fish and all hands were arm-weary. This catch was on Saturday on bait and chum and all fish were in the 14 lb. class.

Aboard charter boat **Montauk** we also hear that the Cartwright blue-fishing has busted wide open with super bluefishing, fish going up to 18 lbs. On Saturday two brown shark were also brought to the boat, one reel was busted up by bluefish. A small white shark was taken on another boat on the bluefish grounds. Blues are running 7-18 lbs. either on bait and chum or just on jigs. On the boat's last four trips, seven mako shark were taken up to 160 lbs.

Charter boat **Ebb Tide** called to report excellent inshore action on blues, bonito and occasional weaks. Sunday's charter for Woodburne Nursery and Richie scored with 100 blues to 15 lbs. working both Block Island and Cartwright on bait.

It was blues, blues, blues aboard Capt. Ron's **Julie III** Saturday and Sunday when 1,540 lbs. of blues were jigged offshore of Cartwright. These fish went up to 18¼ lbs.

Aboard the **Waxed,** Capt. Buddy Dorman's 6-man limit open boat fares have been having the best porgying of the year. For the better part of the week the boat only had to anchor up once per day. One of those day, Mike and Marcia Shapiro, Flushing teamed up to total 332 porgies. Some other days the average was over 100 porgies per person. Bud reminds you his continues his porgy runs till Monday, Oct. 4 when he starts for open boat striped bass, weaks and blues.

Aboard Capt. Richie Rade's **Marlin IV** a 16 lb. 10 oz. bluefish caught on a night trip won the DAIWA BLUE-FISH CONTEST for Mike Contessa of Moriches. Mike's fish won him $25,000 in prizes including boat, motor, trailer, tackle, etc. Richie says that the porgy action has been hot this week with catches of 70-80 porgies a man being made locally. He says this is a new run of fish that are medium/large and there are a few sea bass, fluke, blacks and flounder mixed in. Plenty of day and night blues of the biggest kind to the tune of 15-30 fish a man on herring and some on diamonds at Cartwright. Please note that the **Marlin V** has all day bluefish tickets sold for Sunday, Sept. 26.

The fall run of porgies has arrived

Mody Wu, Alberto Knie, Lui Sing, Dominick Chu, Seto Chile, and Steve Norbeik with a large haul of porgies caught at Montauk on Captain Bud Dorman's six-man open boat, "Waxed."

Lou Rembus, center, gets a hand from Ken Danielson and Robert Loesch in displaying the 47 lb. white marlin he landed on a rigged squid aboard the Haleakala. Photo courtesy of Montauk Marine Basin.

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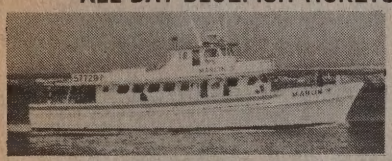

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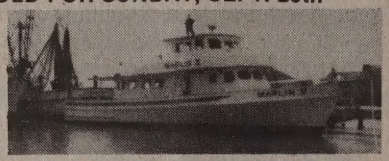

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is the word from **Little Bear** and **Flying Cloud**, two of the boats at Montauk specializing in dinner plate action. It has been a great week on porgies said Capt. Dusty though the hurricane that passed by towards the end of the week caused a big swell which put the weekend catch down somewhat. One day earlier in the week, all 23 fares aboard each had over 100 fish. Monday through Friday all had excellent catches of medium and large porgies. Sunday bounced back after the slower Saturday. The fishing is all local and close around the Point.

Ed Janos and party, fishing aboard the charter boat **Nostalgia II** lost one mako shark at the boat but tagged and released four big blue shark followed by 15 big Cartwright blues on herring. A trip for Shoreham Ironworkers also bagged up at Cartwright on gorilla blues, on herring and mackerel bait. Steve and Bob Ralph likewise loaded up on bluefish at Cartwright on another trip. Capt. Jerry McGrath couldn't find words to describe the super bluefishing, but summed it up by saying that you could catch as many fish as you wanted.

The refrain is echoed by Capt. Mike Potz of the charter boats **Blue Fin I** and **IV**, of the super bluefishing at Cartwright. Fish are running 10-15 lbs. said Mike, with 50-70 fish per trip on bait. Sunday afternoon was a little slow. On the way back in the Rodriguez group bounced white bucktails on the bottom at the Point and scored with four striped bass in the 10-15 lb. category. Mike says both boats now are just doing super blue-

Ten-year-old Brian Battes with a 12 lb. fluke caught at Montauk aboard the charter boat "Marie III."

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Barbara, Hoover and Mike with a pile of fluke, blues and porgies caught at Montauk on the charter boat "Vivienne."

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fishing.

Aboard the **Viking Fleet,** Capt. Paul Forsberg passes the word along that Coxes Ledge cod has been good all week right through Saturday but was a little slow on Sunday. The boat is fishing Block Island and the west end of Coxes Ledge. The porgy boat is doing fantastic porgy fishing at the Point and midway with catches of 70-90 big porgies per man. The half day fluking is over and these trips now consist of porgies, fluke and sea bass. See ad for details. The gorilla blues are still busting tackle apart at Cartwright. Paul says there is still room on the next Nantucket Wreck trip which is sailing Monday night, Sept. 27th. Call for reservations.

Cartwright blues are tremendous, agreed the skipper of the charter boat **Sundance.** Employing herring baits, half day trips are getting 50-75 blues, and all day trips, just no limit. Fish are running 10-18 lbs. Striped bass are starting to be picked up at Gardiner's Bay at night on plugs and daytime on umbrellas. The boat has some prime fall dates still available.

Capt. Jack Passi of the charter boat **Windy** called to say Monday's charter had a mini giant tuna of 133 lbs. plus 200 lbs. of huge blues south of Block Island. Fishing Tuesday and Thursday, over 250 lbs. of jumbo porgies were taken on clam at Great Eastern. Saturday's charter which was for shark saw an estimated 200 lber. tagged and released after being whipped on 30 lb. class tackle. Another of 300 lbs. was tagged and released and it pulled the hook on two others of equal size.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** informs us that the blues have moved into the tuna grounds. Joe Laymen's "hummers" had an 80 and a 50 lb. bluefin tuna but were then invaded by blues off Cartwright. Tom Monister's group from N.Y. Daily News loaded up on Cartwright blues Friday. Sunday's fishing was picky at Cartwright. Phil says striped bass should be coming up soon and reservations should be made as quickly as possible.

Aboard Capt. Fritz Hubner's **Mistress Too** minis and giants remain very good this past week. Tuesday's trip for Tim McDonald of NY had 5 giant tuna on and worked an estimated 600 plus lber. to the boat and released same. Wednesday's trip for the George Nash group of Sound Home Improvements, Lindenhurst, had 7 mini giants between 117 and 216 lbs. The largest was caught by Darleen Denes. The 197 lber. was hooked and landed by Nina Nicolosi. Saturday's charter had a few blue shark plus a 128 lb. mako for Gene Lutz of France. Sunday's group had 3 school tuna in the 30 lb. class and many bluefish for the Ray Achilli group.

Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** tells of loads of blues, a few large fluke in the rips and on the south side and big catches of jumbo porgies coming into the station. Capt. Bill Ricca's charter boat **Alyssa Ann** had red hot bluefishing at Cartwrigt for Henry Galliano, the Blues Brothers and friends to the tune of over 1,000 lbs. of blues and chum and bait during the week. Mel and Izzy Weir totalled 68 blues from 10-15 lbs. on bait. Porgies have been very good on the south side. A trip for Ivey and pals Friday had 450 lbs. of porgies in the morning, followed by 600 lbs. of blues at Cartwright in the afternoon. A few

Capt. Joe McBridge's charter boat **My Mate** has been hauling monster blues for his trips to Cartwright. Trolling around the Point and Southeast Light smaller fish in the 5-10 lb. range can be had on umbrellas. Joe says that he has just a couple of choice open fall dates available for blues and stripers.

Aboard Capt. Zac Grossman's **Mako Express** a 298 lb. mako was caught Saturday. On the rod was John LoRusso. John was helped by Ginnie and Barbara Murphy and Trish Dolan.

SOUTH FORK

Capt. Artie Lach of the **Sag Harbor** open boat **Wilhelric II** reports that the porgy fishing has improved over last week's picture with the porgies more cooperative and catches more consistent. Worms, squid and clam are all catching from Gardiner's Island to New London. Fish are mixed sizes. Wednesday's blackfish trip was slow due to the sudden warmth of water in the area. The skipper asked us to let you that know that all tickets have been sold for Sunday, Sept. 26th.

Over in **Noyac**, **Noyac Marina** told of a catch by four people on Tuesday of 223 humpback porgies taken between the Monastery and Short Beach. On Sunday, Mike Stromberg of Sag Harbor and Dave Miner totalled 60 big porgies and one weakfish while drifting with worm bait. The porgies are in, in Noyac Bay. Some blowfish and flounder are also part of the scene.

In **Shinnecock** the **Capt. Clark II** sailing from Shinnecock canal reported only fair results on last Saturday's offshore wreck trip. Sea bass, blacks and some sea flounder and ling were caught. The blackfish numbers were better than the week before and cooling water temperature should increase catches. Green crabs are available on the boat. The next offshore wreck trip is scheduled for this Saturday, Sept. 25. The boat will be fishing Peconic Bay wrecks every Sunday since it is here that the porgy action remains good. Blacks are now starting to move in on the bay wrecks and should improve daily.

Speck's Bait and Tackle tells of flounder being caught again in good numbers in the Basket area and off the CG station on worm and clam with fish going 3/4 to 1½ lbs. There are

Chester and Barbara Wolfe and Donald Mertin teamed to take this 591 lb. giant tuna at Block Island aboard the Sea Wolfe. Subscriber photo.

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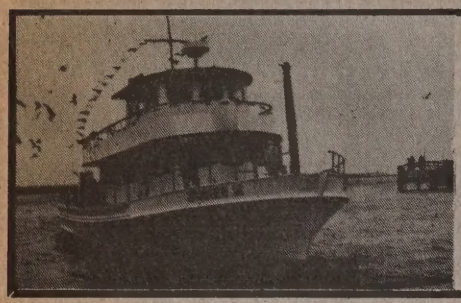

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loads of snappers all over the place. Small blues and bonito in the bay. Blackfish at all jetties and bridges on fiddlers. Peconic action is mainly porgies and snappers with some flounder showing up in the channels. Sag Harbor has been having smaller porgies and flounder. Good porgy fishing at Gardiner's Island.

South Shore Report

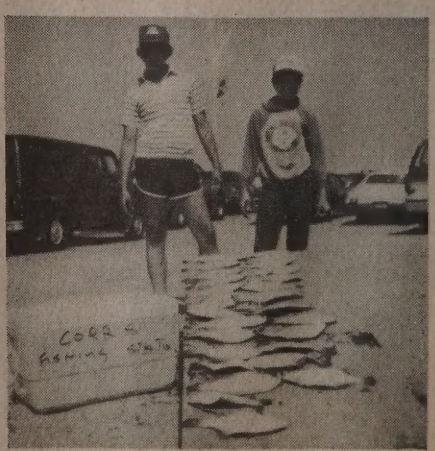
by Fred Golofaro

With fluke fading fast from the L.I. fishing scene and flounder and blackfish improving their toehold in South Shore bays, a picture more typical of fall fishing is fast beginning to take shape. It also appears that the fall run of bluefish located outside the south shore inlets appears to have finally established itself if the fishing enjoyed by boats working SE of F.I. Inlet are any indication.

EAST END BAYS & INLETS

Over at **Corr's Mariner's Cove** in **Hampton Bays**, Frank Pelosa said that things have been real quiet for most of the week in the area. The only exception being the flounder fishing which according to Frank hasn't been bad at all. He suggested the **Basket** area with worms and mussel chum.

Flounder fishing continues on the upswing in **Moriches Bay** according to Larry at **L & M Marine.** Harts Cove in the vicinity of the C.G. Station has provided the best action with a combination of incoming water and worm or clam bait resulting in some fine scores. On Sunday, Jay Brodeer,



A nice catch of winter flounder made in August by Paul Sparr and Angelo Ninovegi in the "Basket area" of Shinnecock Bay. Photo courtesy of Corr's Mariner's Cove in Hampton Bays.

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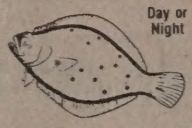

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Jack Goodman and Rich Zabattiere combined to take 70 flounder up to 1¾ pounds. Those looking for a change of pace, can cash in on the heavy run of small porgies currently under way at buoys 44 & 54. Worms work best on these fish.

Gary over at **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** said that it appears that the fall flounder run will be a good one based on current catches. Most boats returned to the station with catches ranging between 30 & 80 flatties. The best fishing has been at Haven's Point in approx. 5' of water, 3 hours before and 3 hours after high water. Many of the fish range between 1 and 2½ pounds. Worms and heavy mussel or clam chum has been the ticket to the better scores according to Gary. Bill Thomason single handedly put away 72 flounder up to 2½ pounds on Saturday at Haven's Point. Still a few fluke to be had in the inlet but interest in the summer flatties is waning rapidly. Still good crabbing and snapper fishing in the cove.

Capt. Fred of the charter boat **Sea Mist** called to report a 395 pound mako shark for a Sunday charter headed by Ron Taidhi of King Kullen stores. The big mako was taken SE of Moriches Inlet in 160' of water. Inshore at the sea buoy good numbers of blues, bonito, albacore and skipjack for trollers.

Gary Stiriz of **Stiriz's Fishing Station** in **Mastic Beach** said that the highlight in the area remains the abundant crabs. Anywhere between buoys 9-17 has produced loads of the fine tasting blue claws. Best catch brought back to the station this weekend was made by FredSteward and Harold Benson. They finished up with 132 crabs. A good mixed bag of sea bass, blowfish, snappers and kingfish and dominated by flounder is available between buoys 9 and 19 Worms and clams take these fish and the chum pot is a big help. On Sunday, John Church fished near the Smith Point bridge an put away 52 flounder, 12 kingfish and 46 crabs. also on Sunday, Frank Campbell anchored up at buoy 17 and when the day was done counted 87 flounder up to 1¾ pounds in the box.

The Pelligrino family with a few of the over 100 flounder to 3 lbs. they caught at buoy 17 in Shinnecock Bay. Fishing was done out of Molnar's Landing in Hampton Bays.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Dave Canale at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** said that there are still some small weaks in the 2 pound range bouncing around in the bay. A mixed bag of porgies, sea bass, blackfish and blowfish await sinker bouncers at ocean beach and west channel. Fluke fishing has slowed dramatically but flounder appear to be picking up the slack at the Sore Thumb. Trout fishing in Connetquot State Park has been steady though most of the fish lately have only been in the 12-14" range. Despite this there were some heavy rumors of an 8 pound brown being taken this past week. Dave fished the Park Saturday evening and took half a dozen trout in the 12-14" range.

Fluke are on their way out according to Irene at **Peppy's Bait and**

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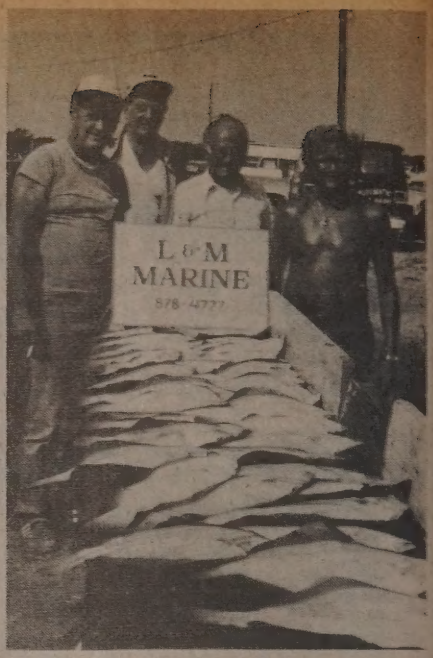

This fine catch of fluke to 3½ lbs. was made out of L&M Marine in East Moriches by the crew aboard the Cousins II. Site of the action was buoy 29.

Tackle in **East Islip**. Flounder have been getting most of the attention from flatfish fans of late with some good scores being made in the Sore Thumb pocket. Blackfishing is good and continues to improve on bay reefs and wrecks. Irene reminded that they have both fiddler and green crabs in stock for tautog fans. Lots of bluefish this past week SE of F.I. Inlet in 80' of water. Fish up to 10 pounds taken by trollers and jiggers.

Real good bluefishing in 75-85' of water SE of the Inlet according to Carl Miller of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in **Bay Shore**. Carl labeled the action as the best of the year and pinpointed the scene as between the lighthouse and Ocean Beach. The choppers are mixed in size with most running 3-7 pounds but some 10-15 pound slammers are also on the grounds. Bonito are mixed in as well. While diamond jiggers appear to have the best of the action, fish were also caught chumming and trolling. Trollers also had a good shot of bonito and albacore east of the NA buoy on red and white feathers this week. Blackfishing in the bay is now pretty good and fluke are still around with one customer taking 7 keepers on Saturday at the Inlet. A few big blues continue continue to gobble live snappers at the WR buoy with only an occasional weak being taken. Some nice flounder catches being made in the Sore Thumb pocket and a mixed bag of porgies, sea bass and blowfish in West Channel. At the two extremes, good canyon action with true albacore on Saturday and snapper fishing and crabbing holding up pretty well at local docks although the best snapper fishing in upcoming days should shift to the other side of the bay.

Captree skippers were enthused

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about the influx of blues into the area this past week. It appears the fish have settled in and should provide some good action in the weeks ahead. Capt. Charlie Kennedy, speaking for the **Capt. Joseph** and **Capt. Joseph II** described the bluefishing as the best of the season. Both Friday and Saturday night's trips resulted in excellent catches as did Sunday's day trip. Saturday was an exception to the entire week with somewhat slow fishing. Fish range anywhere from 5-16 pounds with all daytime fish being caught on jigs and fish at night being taken on bait. After a week of very good fluking, near the RM bridge, fluking dropped off on the weekend. For something a little different, Charlie will be switching over to some local ocean wrecks for big sea bass, porgies and blackfish beginning Wednesday, 9/22.

From the charter boat **Blue Albatross II**, Capt. Roy Mazziotta tagged the day and night bluefishing as excellent. Scene of the action is ESE of the Inlet in 75-80' of water. Most of the blues range between 3 & 9 pounds with some larger mixed in. Sunday's pool was taken by Dave Solomon of Middle Village with a chopper of 17¼ pounds.

Capt. Larry Cincotta of the charter boat **Prime Time** has been working the Ocean Beach area and making some excellent mixed bag catches of porgies, sea bass, blowfish, blackfish, fluke and small weakfish. He has had catches of up to 500 fish for 20 people this past week. Three parties who got in on the hot action this week included those headed by Jan Masvidal, Peter Grandich and Mike Napoli.

Excellent bluefishing on all night trips with catches of 15-30 a man and more being made according to Capt. Gordon Roman of the open boat **Captree Queen**. Lots of 1-3 pound fish but also lots of 6-8 pounders being taken and even some larger fish on occasion. Fishing is being done SE of the inlet (5-6 miles) and sometimes at the Patchogue grounds. Fluke slowed on the weekend after a very good week but Gordon expects the flatties to be with us for a little while yet. Flounder were pretty good on Saturday at the Sore Thumb but Sunday's fishing was the slowest of the fall. Some trips during the week resulted in 20 fish per man catches. Gordon reminded that he will continue sailing night bluefish trips on weekends and holidays.

A family charter aboard the **BCA** boat **Tilichi** on Tuesday resulted in a good mixed bag of sea bass, porgies and blowfish being taken on the Kismet Reef. Amy Yim headed the family affair. On Saturday's open trip, the Kismet reef was worked again for a good mixed bag which included plenty of blowfish and some large sea bass. Both the **Pooka V** and the **Mrs G** have also been doing a good job on a mixed bag of bottom species while the **Luci II** has been fishing evenings at the Lighthouse and taking some nice blues and weaks on live snappers.

Plenty of blacks in the 1-3 pound range with some larger now being taken in the bay according to Ski Kochanski of **Augies Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon**. Some fluke still around at the inlet but Ski feels this fishing is just about over. A good body of flounder in the Sore Thumb has replaced the fluke. The WR buoy to the lighthouse continues to produce a few big blues and big weakfish on live bait and a few big bass being taken somewhere in the F.I. Inlet area were weighed in at the shop Sunday morning. The best of the snapper fishing is now on the south side of the bay with plenty of snapper blues now in evidence. The Babylon Tuna Club boat Irish Faker ran to the canyon on Saturday and returned with 36 true albacore in the 25-35 pound range.

Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

Over at **Capt. Jack's East** in **Lindenhurst** Gil spoke of lots of sea bass, porgies and blacks at Kismet. Fluke fishing has diminished rapidly but some are still being taken inside and just outside of the inlet. A few blues between 10 & 18 pounds continue to be picked by liveliners using snappers at the lighthouse. Both crabs and snappers both remain in good supply in the area.

From **Capt. Jack's West** in **Amity Harbor** Bob Rose told of good bluefishing SE of F.I. Inlet. Joe Borowski had a 15 pound mako on a diamond jig in 90' of water in addition to 10 blues between 5 & 10 pounds. Flounder fishing has been pretty good for boats working the sore thumb cove and plenty of crabs and snappers remain available at Tanner Park in Copiague. Don Landen of Lindenhurst fished on Saturday's open trip aboard the Tilichi and had a mixed bag total of nearly 200 fish.

SOUTH OYSTER BAY

More flounder than fluke in the area but still some fluke to be had at the inlet according to Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in **Seaford**. Best bet for the winter flatties remains Haunt's Creek, Zach's Bay and the 2nd and 3rd bridges. A good mixed bag awaits boatmen who work the bridges and Massapequa cove with clams, squid or worms. Blackfish in good supply at the bridges on fiddler crabs and a few bass into the teens on clam bellies also at the bridges. Lon had it from a reliable source that a 55 pound cow fell to a liveliner near one of the bridges this past week.

From **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** in **Seaford**, Art Wright reported plenty of action with a mixture of sea bass, porgies, flounder, blackfish, snappers, blowfish and fluke at Massapequa Cove, 2nd and 3rd bridges and Squaw Island. Members of the Franklin Elmont Fishing Club put together a fine mixed bag on Sunday's Club outing. Decent black-

Kirk Mantione won the fourth and final segment of Lindenhurst Bait & Tackle's annual snapper derby.

fishing at the bridge on fiddler crabs and good crabbing during the week but this action slowed somewhat over the weekend.

Over at **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore**, Scott told of plenty of 5-6 pound blues along with bonito being trolled on feathers and umbrella rigs at Cholera. Flounder fishing slowed some this week but there was still a decent pick of fish at short beach, The M.B. Bridge, J.B. piers and in Haunt's Creek. Scott added that worms are your best bet for the flatties and noted that chumming is a big help.

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

Starting off the boats out of **Freeport**, the **Capt. Al** on Wednesday saw Stella Johnson of Key West, Florida with blues weighing 18½ and 16½ lbs. On Thursday, Paul Caserta, Franklin Square had 9 blues weighing 14-18 lbs. and four bonito. On Friday, Kevin Krana, Maspeth bagged a 17½ lb. blue. The weekend was tougher due to being mugged by small plastic boats but the fish that were caught were large. Catches were excellent Monday through Friday of all big blues with a good mixture of albies and bonito.

The **Freeport Boatmens Association** called to say that the Oct. 3 cod wreck trip on the **Super Spray II** is all booked up, and in record time at that. Another cod wreck trip for Oct. 10th with a 60 passenger maximum has been setup and nine places are already taken for this trip. If you want some super codfishing call either Freeport Boatmens Association or the Super Spray directly to reserve a spot. Over the weekend the Association boats that fished inside had good mixed bags of flounder, sea bass and porgies fishing in Sloop Channel between the Wantahgh and Meadowbrook Bridges. Things were picky on the weekend due to excessive boat traffic. Some big gorillas being pulled at the Three Sisters and south of Cholera. Lots of bonito in the area. Night bluefishing has been the best,

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specially Friday and Saturday nights in the BA area and at Cholera.

Lou's Fishing Station passes the word on a 110 lb blue marlin caught aboard the Lee III owned and operated by Capt. Rich Lee, at the canyon. ON the rod was Vinnie Ciaraniello. He also had a small mako and several longfin albacore. Aboard the boat Sea Quest, Jim Johnson boated a 200 lb. big eye tuna and 12 long fin albacore. On the Sandra K, a 156 lb. yellowfin tuna was the prize for Pete Kryscuk of Oceanside.

The 2nd annual Long Island Tuna Tournament sponsored by Hudson Anglers and Tournament Anglers will be held out of Guy Lombardo Marina on Sat., Sept. 25th. Free dockage. The committee decided to hold the tournament even though the giant tuna fishing quota has been filled. The chumming category will be based upon total points. Trolling will be based on largest fish. For information call Ron Bauer, at Hudson Point Fishing Station, 516-378-1557.

Very good flounder fishing this week was the word from Capt. Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet**. High hooks on the full day boat were in the 40s and 50s. Thursday saw young Kim with 56 flatties, while Friday slowed and the high hook was only in the 30s. Fares picked away on the weekend. Sunday saw Frank Pavalicek, Jr with 33 flatties and J. Micale with 35. On the half day boat high hooks were in the 20s and 30s. On Sunday, Pete Chechile, Flushing had 25 while Sue Sides, Levittown bagged out with 21 flounder. Five year old Adam Dinkes of Rockville Centre had 12 fish and Bruce Krushner, Spring Valley walked off with 33 flounder. Quite a few sea bass and porgies mixed in, too. Mike says catches should be greatly improved when we are off the moon.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** last Saturday night had over 500 blues fishing Three Sisters for the State Banking Commission. High hook was 42 blues from 3-6 lbs. All this past week, bluefishing was consistent both day and night, weather permitting. There

LIF subscriber Kevin Scherman shows the 3 lb. fluke he took while flounder fishing in Oyster Bay Cove aboard the private boat, Durango.

are more quantities of fish at night, catches going into the hundreds depending on weather conditions. Finn Hansen of West Point had a 9 lber. and 11 other blues. 16 and 17 lbers. have been taken at Cholera and 17 Fathoms this week during the day. Fishing has been both SE and SW of Jones Inlet. Both jigs and bait are being utilized on day trips . On Sunday, 47 blues came over the rail in a 1¾ hour drift. We should have at least another month of good bluefishing. Friday's trip for J.J. Lester and Company also had giant blues up to 18 lbs. Pool winner was Steve Rach. Most of the fish went 10-18 lbs.

The **Capt. Andy** told of very good flounder catches the beginning of the week but things got tougher on the weekend, but fares continued to scractch out a catch of flounder, sea bass and porgies.

The main source of happiness at **Hook, Line and Sinker** has been the big surge in big bluefish, mainly at Cholera and Three Sisters. Gary and Jean expect the flounder to really take hold once the water cools off.

Over in **Baldwin, Arthur Street Fishing Station** had big Cholera blues brought in, ranging 14-17 lbs. Dr. Martin Greenspan had a 17½ lber. Some flounder catches were made in Swift Creek and at Short Beach during the week. Lots of blue claw crabs being taken from Middle Bay by jackers at night. Lots of small porgies and sea bass in the bay and good blackfishing at the T wreck. Some fluke around the hole in the bay and Reynolds Channel, but not many.

Down at **Point Lookout**, the charter boat **Marie III** told of catching 3-4 blues per man utilizing bait fished dead on the bottom at Cholera, fish in the 12-15 lb. range. Friday's trip hit Three Sisters taking a combination of blues, bonito and albacore on diamond jigs and spearing chum. Same area and results on Saturday. Sunday's group scratched up a mixed bag of flounder, porgies, sea bass, kings, blowfish and snappers working the Meadowbrook bridge, Reynolds channell, Swift and Sea Dog creeks to the tune of 10-40 fish per man, on worm and clam. The boat has one weekend in October left unbooked as yet.

The half day flounder boat **Capt. Bill**told of fair flounder catches all week and weekend with some blacks, sea bass and porgies mixed in on local drops. The boat was chartered for bluefish Sunday and they had blues to 15 lbs. fished at Freeport Reef and just west of Cholera.

In **Lynbrook, Beckman's Tackle** sings the praises of mixed bag fishing with good bonito catches of 3-4 lb. fish being made at Ambrose Channel on spearing. Albacore are being caught in this area also. Fluking remains good at Ambrose Channel between buoys 4 and 4A. Snappers and flounder are still around.

Over in **Atlantic Beach**, Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the guide boat **Kim** reports poor shark fishing in the HA area as evidenced by no hits in two

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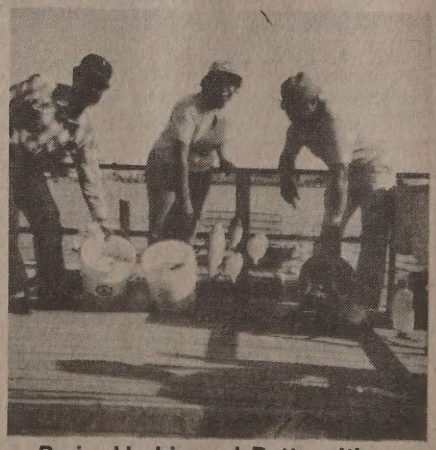

Paris, Herbie and Betty with a mixed bag which included porgies, sea bass and a school striper. Fishing was done out of J-Bay Boat Rental at buoy 29 in Jamaica Bay.

days of sharking. However, the boat's bluefish trips have been super in New York Bight with weakfish and bass mixed in. Schoolie bass have also bee taken around the Atlantic Beach bridge and in the bay. The water has been dirty since the tornado went by, advised Ron and things should pick up again with some settled weather.

Reynolds Reef Fishing Station in **Atlantic Beach** told us of a slow week relatively speaking. Even so th eAB bridge and Silver Pt. jetty produced blackfish on fiddlers in the 1-1½ lb. range. Some fluke on the black side of Ambrose and Sandy Hook. Small bass being umbrellaed at the AB bridge. Both flounder and fluke have been spotty right through the weekend.

Long Beach Sports Marina told of nice bluefish catches at Cholera as evidence by John Thomason and Frank James with 32 choppers from 9-14 lbs. on Saturday. Bergall was the hook bait. Some stripers have been trolled on white bucktails trailing Uncle Josh pork rind at the AB bridge. Flounder and porgies at Hog Channel, Cement block and buoy 1 on bloodworms. Blacks and sea bass at the Atlantic Beach bridge, Gong buoy and 28th St. wreck. A few flounder still at the Tin Can and Ambrose.

NEW YORK BIGHT

From **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** we hear more of mixed bag catches on the inside of flounder, sea bass, blacks and porgies. Bluefish in good numbers and sizes off the south beaches. A 173 lb. mako was taken in the HA area aboard the Four Winds Sunday by Brian Berwind. A few smal bass have been taken on RedFins off the beaches and weaks in the surf on live blackfish.

On **Jamaica Bay, Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** tells of very good black-fishing off both north and south bridges and the Marine Parkway bridge, blacks running 1-1½ lbs. on fiddlers. Flounder are making a decent showing at Silver Hole while the porgy action remains pretty good with sizes from 1/2 to 3/4 lbs. South Channel bridge is producing a few big weaks and blues on live or chunked bunker in the evening and at night. Lots of action.

To the west in **Sheepshead Bay**, the **Elsie K III** reports fluking is still good but the last shots are coming up now as the fish are moving out of the bays. High hooks are running in the 15-20 and the pools are going in the 5-6 lb. range. The skipper feels the fluking should last at least through the end of September.

Aboard the **Pilot II** blacks from 2-7 lbs. and porgies up to 1½ lbs. are being taken in good quantities on local wrecks. Some fares on good days are getting 40-60 porgies with the skipper emphasizing consistency being a big factor now. The 5Pm bluefish, weakfish and bass trips have been only fair this past week.

Aboard the **Zephyr** fluke catches

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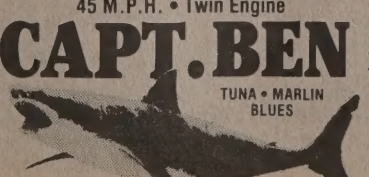

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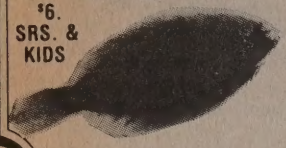

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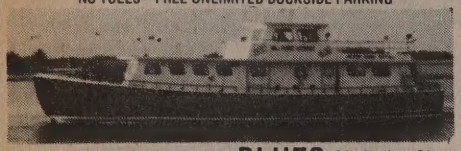

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remain good during the week, but Saturday was tough, with poor weather conditions and fishing conditions prevailing. Sundays fishing picked up slightly with fluke at the Tin Can and between the Channels. Capt. Butch says the fluke are moving out now and will be gone soon, so come on down now for your last shots at fluke. Some large scattered porgies are also being caught on these trips.

Capt. Walt of the **Flamingo III** identified 17 fathoms as the spot holding some giant blues on both day and night trips. The emphasis however has been on diamond jigging blues in the NY Bight. Some schools of bonito and albacore have started to show along with blues and weaks. A few striped bass also have been caught almost every day. Mixed bags are common with catches running from good to excellent. High hooks have been 30-50 fish, average catches 10-30 a man, depending on skill and perseverance.

Sal at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** advise that fluke continue to be caught on spearing and squid combos at the Channels, around the old Ambrose Lightship area. Albie being taken at the 1st and 2nd mud holes. Blackfish on fiddler and green crabs off all rocks, reefs and wrecks. Lots of blues bein caught off Coney Island, the black side of Ambrose, Tin Can. Bass are being taken on worms in the same area, fished on the bottom at night and there are lots of small porgies in the bay and very few flounder.

Across the blue water in **Staten Island, Santo's Sport Shop** reports blowfish, snappers, and lafayettes in abundance just about anywhere you look. Live and cut bunker is accounting for bluefish all up and down the beaches. Porgies are after worm and clam bait at Great Kills. Weaks are being taken in the late night on small porgies. Blue claw crabs are going strong at Great Kills and off the Stapleton Piers. Some fluke continue to be caught along with sea bass from boats in most areas around Staten Island.

North Shore Report

by Marty Garrell

Bluefish continue to be the staple in most areas with porgies still holding on in deeper waters. Blackfish are beginning to take over the bottom fishing scene, especially on the eastern end of the Sound.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun & Tackle in New Rochelle reported blues in mid and upper sizes off Larchmont on Saturday afternoon. Umbrella rigs and bait scored equally well.

Jack's on City Island mentioned great porgy fishing for boats traveling east. The **Klondike VIII** from New Rochelle was hauling blues from the Smithtown area with bigger fish early in the week. Smaller blues in the 1-4 lb. group dominate the former schools. Friday was picky, but Saturday and Sunday were very good. The **Ebb Tide** from City Island was also working on those fish while the **Apache** was hauling porgies along with the **North Star.** Dom Cerbone said that the Apache's porgies were nice sized fish to 1½ lbs., with up to 15 scup per man. Soft bait was also producing 5 or 6 blackfish per trip plus occasional weaks. Cerbone expects to be shifting to tautog during the last days of the month.

City Island blues are 8-15 lb. fish, best picked in the early morning under the bunker schools. A few school bass are in the area and local blackfish are in 10-30' of water.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that roughly one of every three beach anglers was returning with fish on most nights. Local blues were anywhere from 1-3 lb. fish taken by Carl Smith to Ron Oldenburg's and Frank Caper's 10 lb. slammers. Art Swartz trolled some bass near Bayville on worms and George Bosch livelined a 21 lb. bass.

Joe Fink told us that the **Lady Lil III** enjoyed an excellent weekend on

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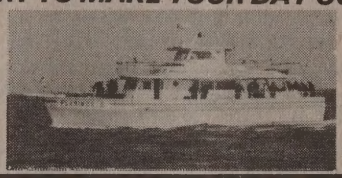

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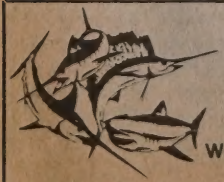

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smaller blues to 4 lbs., but that the boat did make one run away from the crowd in the Smithtown Bay area. Fink traveled briefly to Norwalk and found 6 to 13 lb. slammers in 70' of water.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

The Huntington area has a lot of bluefish now, particularly for those anglers willing to work the dawn and dusk hours. George Valentine at **4 Winds** suggested poppers at dusk for 4-6 lb. fish and bait after dark for blues that could go 10. Boat anglers are working off Eaton's and Marshall Field, among other places. Action under the bunker schools in Cold Spring Harbor is not really good yet. Anglers working around Buoy 11B and the OB have had their innings too, and the fish in that zone are large at times. Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** boasted a pair of slammers of 12 and 14 lbs. in Friday's catch. Smithtown, Nissequogue, and Kings Park blues were smaller, to 5 lbs.

Porgies continue to hang in off Buoy 13, according to Jerry Cedar at **Huntington Prop.** The blues chase and chop them, but there are some scup over 2 lbs. Those who drift worms off Cold Spring have been rewarded by schoolie bass and small weakfish lately, and the blackfish off Eatons, Marshall Field and southeast of Buoy 11B run to

This huge 17.15 lb. chopper was taken in Hempstead Harbor on a live bunker by 12-year-old Wendy Miller. Subscriber photo.

6½ lbs. right now. These tautog can be found in water all the way to 45' depths.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** in Northport was disappointed with the lack of daytime blues in the Northport area. Bottom angling, on the other hand, has been fine with porgies in 45' of water, 3 and 4 lb. blackfish showing, and flounder present as well. Snapper fishing continues to be great.

The **Caraftis Fishing Station** at Port Jefferson said that the small blues off Buoy 11 were vulnerable to jigging, trolling or plugging on top. Some of the fish off the local beaches were giants to 16 lbs. The porgies off the Oldfield Light could run as large as 2 lbs., and the local tautog sizes were getting up there. The Caraftis Station saw a number of 5 lb. fish and one 8 lb. trophy last week.

John Fisher told us that the **Aqua Gem** has gone back to the bottom now and is working on porgies and blackfish. Pool blacks have run 3½ and 5 lbs., and there's lots of action on in 20-25' of water. Henry Olsen said that the **Captain Hank** found a blackfish bonanza somewhere near Shoreham off shallow water structure in 16' depths. Saturday's fish ran up to 7½ lbs., and Sunday's catch featured two enormous fish—one 9, the other 11 lbs.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's** in Mount Sinai liked the "terrific" porgy action and told us that a lot of anglers were trying the 3-5 lb. tautog around Miller Place and Mount Misery. Johnny Hughes was regularly taking 100 small blues a day while those who chunked the beaches in the evening had many 8-10 lb. fish.

NORTH FORK

Sporadic beach action has broken out from Wading River to Orient, according to Nick Cyprus at **Warren's** in Aquebogue. Besides Redfins and Rebels, anglers would do well to carry chrome poppers, white poppers, and bottle plugs.

Blackfish have started strongly in the areas around the Beachcomber and Duck Point Point, and the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** saw excellent catches on Sunday that included both porgies to 3 lbs. and blackfish to 7. Most scup were 1 lb. fish and some sea bass mixed in with the catches.

The **Port of Egypt Station** at Orient watched many anglers score with blackfish in 40' of water off Mulford. Tautog there are plentiful 2-3 lb. fish with a few to 6. There are nice porgies in Petty's Bight, but Ace Cottral has been particularly pleased by the showing of scup around the Southold station. One Port of Egypt skiff pulled 150 fish in the 1 lb. class on three successive days west of Jessups. Blowfish can be found off Buoy 14 and Cedar Beach Point, while blackfish are in those hard to locate rockpiles in the Greenlawns area.

Captain Marty's in New Suffolk looked at many good porgy catches off Rose's and Buoy 25. A couple of fish to 2¼ lbs. were weighed and numerous summer weaks of 1½ lbs. were also recorded. Chumming with skimmers and fishing skimmers, worms and squid is the way to go, and the angling has been excellent for the past two weeks.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in Greenport was enjoying a very busy month with top notch bluefish and blackfish action as well as outstanding porgy days on the Greenport fleet. Blackfish on the north side of Plum Island are already lusty 8-9 fish and blues in the Race and Pigeon Rip run anywhere from 4 to 12 lbs.

Richie Jensen said that the Nancy Ann has been finding the tautog

Chuck Minor of East Northport used a bunker chunk to take this 14 lb. chopper out of Lloyd Harbor. The big blue was weighed at Ronnie's Bait & Tackle in Huntington.

in shallow water anywhere to 25', and has been switching back and forth on species, depending on the feelings of the parties. The Elks Fishing Club took a look at porgies and blackfish and pulled 100 scup to jumbo sizes plus tautog to 9 lbs.

George Porter filled in the details on the torrid New London porgy scene. Typical high hook on the **Brand X** can run up to 50s on good days, but Saturday was the best day of the year and featured a terrific bite. During one interval, drops regularly brought immediate doubleheaders of fish that ran 15 to the bucket. Scup sizes run from 30 to the bucket to 12 or 15 on the largest fish. That translates to roughly 1½ to 3½ lbs. Porter is fishing deep water in strong tides down at New London, and he'll be staying with the porgies until around the 20th of October.

Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

The Long Island surf scene continues to provide some encouraging signs of life although much of the picture continues to be painted blue. A big heave made fishing the south shore surf difficult a couple of days last week but things had pretty much cleared by Saturday evening. The current easterly flow (as of this writing on Monday) could result in a significant change in surf action particularly at Montauk. Next week's reports will tell.

Still some blues and weaks at the entrance to Great Kills Harbor according to Kevin Koncelik of **Santo's Sport Shop** in **Staten Island**. The fish are being taken after dark on cut bunker and live porgies with some action also at New Dorp and the Oakwood Bogs. A flurry of school bass action this past week in the Hougnot and Carmen's Restaurant area. Best in early AM on small white poppers according to Kevin.

Beckman's Tackle Shop in **Island Park** reported some weakfish taken from local rock piles on Rebel and Gibb's swimming plugs in early morning hours. Also reports that some big weakfish are falling to live blackfish from the same jetties. Biggest weak weighed by Charlie at the shop this past week was a 14 pound tiderunner.

Bernie Haag of the **Long Beach Sports Marina** told of some decent bass action on the rock piles between East Atlantic Beach and the Silver Point Jetty. Fish range from schoolies into the teens and are being taken in the early AM and evenings on pencil poppers and rebel and redfin swimmers.

In the West End Jones Beach surf some on and off action with blues up to 7 pounds on both tins and plugs according to Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in **Seaford**. Lon noted that an occasional school bass has also been mixed with the blues in this area.

To the east, there was a good showing of blowfish in the Robert Moses surf on Tuesday and Wednesday of this past week. Tuesday's run of fish were respectable 5-7 pounders while Wednesday's action resulted in the more familiar 1-3 pound choppers. Nick Russo walked in on the action at 12 noon on Wednesday and enjoyed red hot action despite the unusual time slot. The fish were apparantly still around on Sunday morning when Richie Simmons and Poppy Smith managed a half dozen at Field 3 during a short casting session.

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spreading east along the length of Southampton Town ocean beaches developed this past week. Thom at **Speck's Tackle Shop** in **Southampton** who relayed word of the fishing said that most of the fish have been 2-4 pounds and the best action has been evenings and early mornings. Both tins and poppers have been getting equal attention from the blues. While Thom was enthused by the influx of blues, he added that bass and weakfish reports were lacking from the area.

Out in **Montauk**, Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** reported that the point finally surrendered a few respectable bass in addition to a few weaks up front. A big heave which unsettled the surf late in the week could have been a hinderance to possibly better action. Bass that John was aware of included fish of 19, 15 and 10 pounds. Still those small bluefish around the point with a good shot at action occuring at Hither Hills Saturday morning.

Up on the North Shore, bluefish continue to keep casters occupied mornings, evenings and after dark. Western sound harbors continue to produce some big blues after dark on bait while smaller fish are the rule mornings and evenings for plug casters.

Mid-north shore beaches including Makamah and Crab Meadow have been regularly producing 4-6 pound blues during the evening hours according to George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** in **Huntington**. Both Atom and Creek Chub poppers in the medium size range have been effective on the fish while after dark, chunk bait has been responsible for good numbers of 7-10 pound blues. A good shot of the larger fish came through the shop on Saturday morning according to George.

Two to six pound blues continue to ply local beaches with an occasional school bass mixed in according to Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**. After dark a few larger blues in the 8-12 pound range being taken on bait along sound beaches between Mount Sinai and Shoreham.

Little change in the picture as we move out to the North Fork where Ed Kopack of **Warren's Tackle Shop** in **Aquebogue** tells of good plugging action with blues averaging 4 pounds during the evening hours. White or silver poppers or Red Fin swimmers have been the hot item in these parts. After dark some 10-12 pound choppers have fallen to bait fishermen. Ed named the Mattituck inlet area as well as any of the local beaches as regular scenes of bluefish action. Weekend fishing was tough due to the wind and bass news has been nil.

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19' 6" ARGOCRAFT, 115 h.p. Evinrude Lil Dude trailer. Many extras. sking $3500. Ask for Nick. Days; 212-932-6678; Eves. 212-829-9881; Wknds. 516-477-2437.

1979 MAKO 235 h.p. Johnson. 170 hrs, Si-Tex recorder, Regency VHF, CB, E-Z Loader tandem trlr., brakes. Many extras. At Star Island, Montauk. $18,000. 201-864-8431. Eves.

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1976 WAHOO center console. Twin inboard 6 cyl. Chrysler engines. 270 hrs. All 1982 equipment. New tower, Loran; over 25 options. Also boat is documented. $23,000 or Best Offer. 212-492-8512. 10AM-6PM

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23' MAKO C.C. 235 Johnson. Both 1981. Spray hood, Bimini, connector window; SS prop, Lowrance Depth finder, Gemtronics CB, hydraulic steering, Lee outriggers & more. Used 1982 season only Lo hrs. & spotless. Asking $15,500. Days: 201-775-9611. Nites: 201-493-3562.

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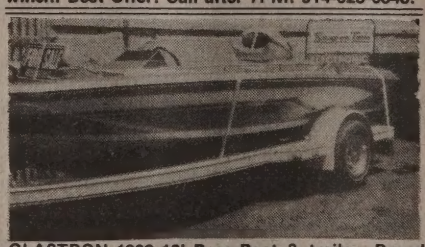

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Pair FWC Chris Craft 427s w/full Sendur system. Rebuilt this year. Incl. Paragon 1½:1 reduction. Call Morty, 212-544-9473 w/reasonable offer. Engines in boat. Will demo.

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18' FLEET CRAFT Bowrider 1976, 75 h.p. Johnson Outboard. Full canvas; fully equipped. In water. $3500. 567-2066.

FOR SALE: 1978 Wellcraft V 20' 140 Johnson. Excl. cond. Full canvas; extras. Great fish boat. Dock in City Island; will demo. Bus: 212-571-2120. Home: 831-7706. $5900. Must sell. Frankie C.

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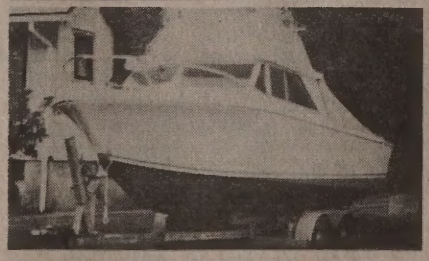

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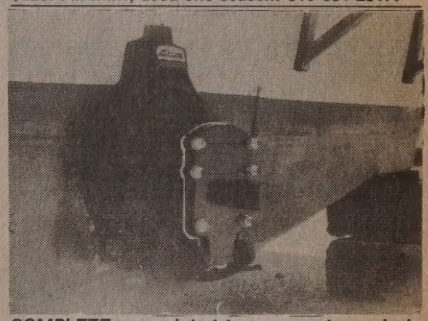

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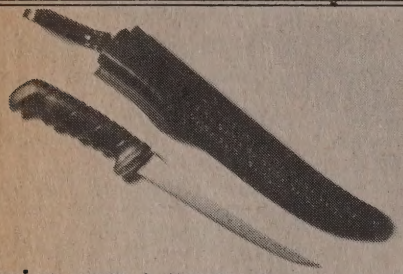

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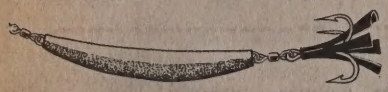

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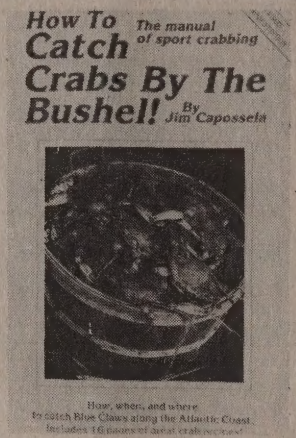
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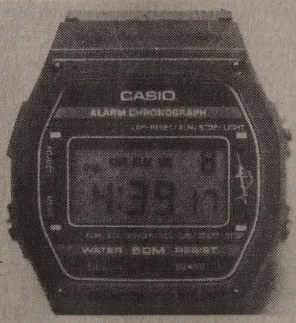
FISH WITH ME in Freeport. The "Jolly Fisherman," 27' Sportfisherman. Ask about guarantee. Capt. Fred, Eves. 212-525-4490.



CASIO WATERSPORTS WATCH. People who take to the water will surely take to this digital, on the deck of a boat or below the waves. This watch is water resistant to 150'. Features incl: stopwatch, hourly time signal, daily alarm, calendar, micro-light for nite viewing; 5 yr. Lithium batt. & a 1-yr. warranty from Casio. Model W-22 now only $22.95; model W300, 300' watersports, stopwatch, alarm, calendar. Now $29.95. Send check or M.O. to: INTER-AMERICA TRADING CORP., 16 W. 22nd St., Suite 200A Dept LF-1, New York, NY 10010.

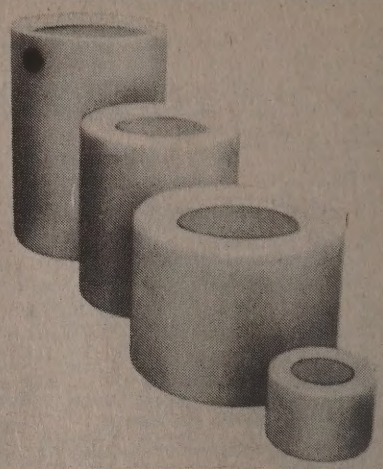
NON-TOXIC Anti-freeze for water tanks. $3.99 gal. BURCK, 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 212-885-1559.

TERMITE PROOFING: Low, low prices. All work guaranteed. Easy payment plan. Complete clean-out: roaches, mice, ants, etc. GENERAL CORPORATION, 731-7100; 293-1819.

HUNTERS: Why pay $50 or more? Have your deer skinned, cut, freezer wrapped by a professional butcher. 14th year deer cutting. $30. Bob, 665-8839.

1955 WILLY'S 4WD S.W. Needs motor rebuilt or swap. With/Without 7' belt pump Meyers Plow. Best offer. 914-969-1852. Eves.

FISHING TACKLE

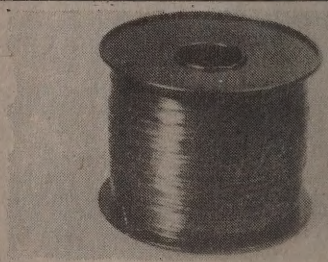


LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.40 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Ave., Dept. L, Central Islip, NY 11722. 516-234-0144.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounder are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig specially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design & construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made finest quality material. 3 completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

GRALITE WADERS—In stock. At discount prices; for immediate delivery. These waders have a 5-yr. warranty. Write: THE SURFCASTER, Dept. Y, 113 Maywood Rd., Darien, Ct. 06820; or call 203-866-1289.

EVERYTHING for the Saltwater Fisherman. Quality tackle & accessories at lowest prices. Satisfaction guaranteed. Free 76-page catalog. THE TACKLE BOX, Dept. FG-22, Falmouth, Cape Cod, Mass. 02540.



SILVERFLEX WIRE LINE. Single strand stainless steel extra flexible, very durable & easy to handle. Now avail. on money saving bulk spools. 40 lb., .023 dia. 3544'-$39.95; 50 lb., .025 dia., 3000' - $37.50; 60 lb., .028 dia., 2390'-$36.30. Add $1.75 for shipping. All orders shipped same day received. Visa, Master Card, check. BAY CITY TACKLE, Box 253B, Agawam, MA 01001; 413-786-3706. #39

FLUKE KILLER RIGS: The ultimate in a deadly double hook rig. You will hook more & lose fewer fluke, since fish can't avoid fully adjustable tail hook. Hand tied, finest materials. 3/$3.50 or 10/$10. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon TPKE, Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

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FOR SALE: Small, busy fishing station; boats, motors, all accessories. Bait & tackle store, large beautiful workshop & 2-family home. All in excl. cond. South Shore. Nassau. For address & appt. to view, please write to: P.O. Box 441, Merrick, New York 11566.

NEW HYDE PARK: 3 bdrm. Cape; finished basement; Florida room. Garage; low taxes. $87,500. 516-741-5295.

Affordable Waterfront Home. Call for details. 212-525-5724.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	12:15	12:50	1:15	1:40	1:15	1:35	2:15	2:35	4:20	4:20	4:00	4:20	12:20	12:45	9/23
FRI.	1:05	1:35	2:10	2:35	2:05	2:25	3:10	3:30	5:25	5:20	4:55	5:15	1:10	1:40	9/24
SAT.	1:55	2:25	3:10	3:35	2:55	3:15	4:10	4:30	6:35	6:50	5:45	6:10	2:10	2:40	9/25
SUN.	2:55	3:25	4:10	4:35	3:50	4:15	5:15	5:30	7:40	7:55	6:45	7:05	3:10	3:35	9/26
MON.	3:55	4:25	5:15	5:35	4:55	5:15	6:10	6:20	8:35	8:50	7:40	8:00	4:10	4:35	9/27
TUE.	5:00	5:25	6:05	6:20	5:55	6:10	7:00	7:05	9:25	9:35	8:30	8:50	5:00	5:25	9/28
WED.	5:55	6:15	6:50	7:05	6:45	6:55	7:40	7:50	10:05	10:15	9:20	9:35	5:50	6:10	9/29
THUR.	6:45	7:00	7:30	7:50	7:25	7:40	8:20	8:30	10:35	10:40	10:00	10:20	6:35	6:55	9/30

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

9/24	6:49	6:55
9/25	6:50	6:53
9/26	6:51	6:51
9/27	6:52	6:49
9/28	6:53	6:47
9/29	6:54	6:45
9/30	6:55	6:43

Moonrise/Moonset

9/24	1:51PM	11:22PM
9/25	2:44PM	—
9/26	3:32PM	12:09AM
9/27	4:15PM	1:02AM
9/28	4:53PM	1:59AM
9/29	5:26PM	2:59AM
9/30	5:57PM	4:01AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/17	9/25	9/3	9/10

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	10:20	4:10	10:50	4:35
Fri.	11:15	5:05	11:45	5:30
Sat.	—	5:55	12:05	6:20
Sun.	12:35	6:40	12:55	7:05
Mon.	1:20	7:25	1:35	7:50
Tues.	2:05	8:10	2:20	8:35
Wed.	2:50	8:55	3:05	9:20
Thurs.	3:35	9:40	3:50	10:05

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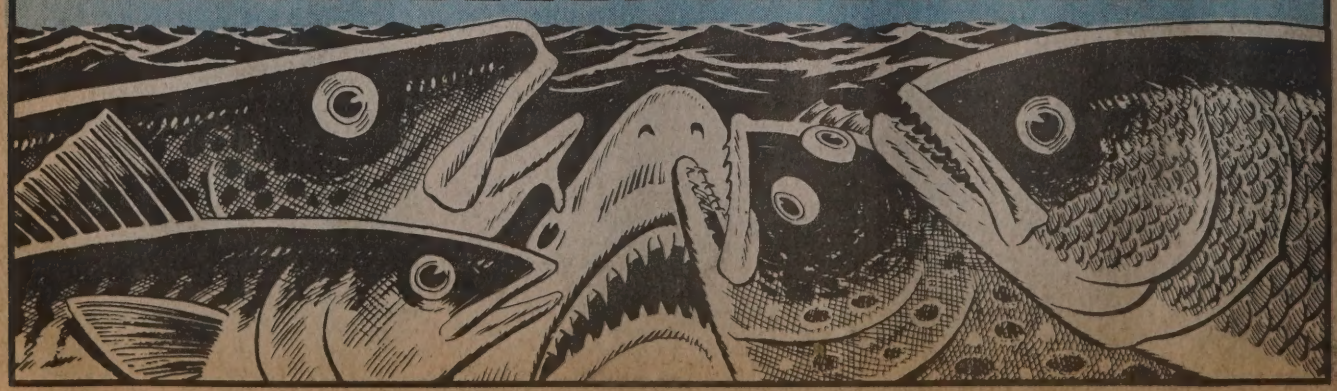
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